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DEVOTIONAL EXERCISES,

DESIGNED FOR THE USE

OF

FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS:

TO WHICH ARE SUBJOINED,

PRAYERS

FOR PARTICULAR OCCASIONS.

BY THE

REV. JOSEPH HUTTON.

THIRD EDITION, EDITED AND ENLARGED,

BY THE

REV. J. HUTTON, LL.D., OF LONDON.

LONDON:

JOHN GREEN, 121, NEWGATE STREET.

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1841.

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BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

COMPTON AND RITCHIE, PRINTERS, MIDDLE STREET,
CLOTH FAIR, LONDON.

PREFACE

TO THE FIRST EDITION.

It cannot be denied that there are many and valuable books of devotional exercises already before the public; but in the greater number of these the exercises are protracted to such an unreasonable length, or expressed in language so obscure, and involving so much matter of doubtful opinion, that there still seems room for a manual of devotion, brief in its forms, simple and fervent in its language, and perfectly scriptural in all its expressions.

Such a manual, it is hoped, is here presented to the public. And if the brevity of these forms, and at the same time their devout spirit and Christian character, shall afford any additional inducement to the heads of families to institute, revive, or continue, the observance of daily prayer with their children and domestics, the Compiler will think that his pains and labour have been well and profitably bestowed.

It is his earnest wish, so far as he has the power, to provide increased facilities for the observance of a duty which he deems most important, and the general neglect of which, amongst professing Christ-

ians, is to him a proof, as convincing as it is melancholy, of the little progress that pure and vital religion has yet made in the world.

"Were there not ten cleansed?" said our Lord, when of the ten, whose leprosy had been healed, one only returned to glorify God, and give thanks to his gracious benefactor—"were there not ten cleansed—but where are the nine?" And might not the Father of all the families that dwell upon the face of the earth address a similar expostulation to his children, of whom so few are found disposed to offer up to him on the domestic altar the daily and weekly sacrifice of prayer and praise? Surely common gratitude requires that family worship should be duly paid to Him who "placeth the solitary in families," and through whose abounding mercy it is that parents, and children, and servants, dwell together in united households, and are made joint partakers of all the joys and comforts—all the happiness and blessedness of *home*.

To the pious mind, the time required for the daily performance of this pleasant and profitable duty will not seem long. In truth, it need not be so. The serious perusal of a portion of the Sacred Scriptures, accompanied, where opportunity and ability permit, by a brief explanation of its meaning and enforcement of its moral, and followed by a prayer of moderate length, would occupy but a few minutes each day; the abstracting of which from worldly business or pleasure, for such a pur-

pose, no true disciple of Christ—no sincere follower of that Master who delighted to hold frequent communion with his heavenly Father—could possibly deem irksome or inconvenient.

Some of the forms contained in this work are original, and others, the Compiler has taken the liberty, without mentioning the sources from which they are derived, to alter and abridge, in order to fit them for more general use. In none of them, so far as he is aware, is any language introduced which might furnish matter of controversy amongst Christians. In selecting his materials, he has availed himself of the devotional works of writers of various denominations, Dissenters, Members of the Established Church, and Roman Catholics.

Happy to believe that, in every sect, as in every country, "he that feareth God, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with Him," the Compiler feels no disposition, when he can conscientiously join in the *matter* and *spirit* of the devout address, to do so the less earnestly, because he happens to differ from the pious author on some points of doubtful speculation.

Whether it be a Watts, a Doddridge, a Hartley*,

* The Compiler embraces the opportunity which the mention of Dr. Hartley's name affords, to recommend to the notice of the religious public a work, which he has reason to think is not so well known as it deserves to be, viz. the "Prayers and Religious Meditations" of that truly pious and excellent author, which were first affixed to a posthumous edition of his *Observations on Man*, and have since been published separately.

a Wilson, a Jeremy Taylor, or a Thomas à Kempis, who pours forth his pious breathings to the Father, in the name of his beloved Son, he would gladly unite with fervent spirit in the prayer and praise, and add his humble and sincere *Amen.*

In the true Catholic Church—that great community, which, though bound together by no outward and visible bond, exists, nevertheless, as One Church, in the sight of the Universal Father, including all "who worship God in spirit and in truth, and love the Lord Jesus in sincerity,"—he who sends forth this little work hopes and believes that many good men, of *every* Christian sect, will at length be found.

And should any one of the number, by what name soever called, find in these pages the means of awakening, or confirming, any devout sentiment or virtuous resolution, he will think that he has abundant reason to rejoice in his labour.

To the Divine blessing he desires to commend what he has written, and all who shall read with a meek, humble, and holy spirit.

PREFACE

TO THE THIRD EDITION,

BY THE EDITOR.

HAVING been requested by my revered father to superintend the printing of a Third Edition of his excellent Manual of Family Prayers, and having been kindly authorized by him to make any alterations in the work, or any additions to it, that I might deem advisable, I gladly avail myself of the opportunity, not only of doing what I deem good service to the Christian world, by keeping before it a work which seems to me admirably adapted to the object which it has in view, but also of thus associating my own name with that of one to whom I am bound by the tenderest ties of gratitude, respect, and love. I have pleasure in the thought, that when according to the course of nature, at no very distant period, both father and son shall rest their heads upon the lap of earth, a memorial may continue to exist, for some few years longer, before the eyes of surviving relatives and friends, of that cordial union in sentiment and feeling, on the most important of all subjects, which prevailed between

them while they lived; and of that deep conviction which they felt in common, that practical religion is the one thing needful, and that, in one important sense at least, there is truth in the often perverted maxim, that "charity begins *at home*." In that sacred citadel let the virtues ever concentrate their forces; so shall "the Lord keep the city," and "the watchman not wake in vain."

The alterations in the present edition are few and unimportant; their principal object, where they are more than merely verbal, having been to exclude, even more scrupulously, if possible, than in the preceding editions, such sentiments as might be deemed, by any of that class of Christians for whose use the work is chiefly designed, matters of doubtful disputation. In social prayer, it is my father's opinion*, in which I entirely concur, that all controversial topics should be carefully avoided, and that, both in substance and in form, the sentiments should always, if possible, be so conceived and expressed as to command the intelligent assent of every hearer, and to draw, from his heart to his lips, the sincere and fervent "Amen."

On grounds somewhat similar to these, knowing that many professing Christians, of whom I am myself one, wholly deny, or seriously doubt, the lawfulness of the profession of arms, I have ventured to substitute for the "Prayer for a Soldier," one, partly altered from it, for "a Citizen in the

* See Preface to the First Edition.

Time of War," to the sentiments contained in which it is hoped that no Christian will object. To those prayers, in the former editions, designated as "for any morning," and "for any evening," I have added a sufficient number of my own to complete a third week's prayers. Those for Sunday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday in that week, accordingly, I am accountable for. I have also added an occasional prayer for "Absent Friends," which may be introduced, when it is thought desirable, into the daily devotions.

With the exception of these few additions, and the trifling alterations to which I have adverted, the work is now republished exactly as my father first gave it to the world. May his intention in composing and compiling it be fully accomplished; and may it long be useful in awakening, in the breasts of others, those feelings which have not yet ceased to glow in his bosom; and which now, doubtless, in the peaceful evening, as in the cheerful morning and active meridian, of his day, dictate the heartfelt prayer, in which his son would humbly join,—that the blessing of God may rest upon all the children of men, and that His kingdom may be established in their homes, and "Christ be formed," in their hearts!

5, HAMILTON PLACE, KING'S CROSS,
JULY 7, 1841.

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The Gospels may be read consecutively, or in harmony as published by the Kildare Street Society. The Book entitled the Acts of the Apostles furnishes instructive subjects for family reading, as also the General Epistles of Peter, James, and John, and the concluding chapters of St. Paul's Epistles, which abound in the noblest moral and religious precepts.

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FORMS OF PRAYER.

Scripture Sentences.

"The Lord passed by before Moses, and proclaimed, The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty." Exod. xxxiv. 6.

"Lord God of Israel, there is no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath, who keepest covenant and mercy with thy servants, that walk before thee with all their heart." 1 Kings viii. 23.

"But will God, indeed, dwell on the earth? Behold! the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house? Yet have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O Lord, my God, to hearken unto the cry, and to the prayer which thy servant prayeth before thee this day." 1 Kings viii. 27, 28.

"Whoso offereth praise, glorifieth me; and to him that ordereth his conversation aright, will I shew the salvation of God." Psalm l. 23.

"I, even I, am the Lord, and beside me there is no Saviour. I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for my own sake, and will not remember thy sins." Isaiah xliii. 11, 25.

"Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed, and make you a new heart and a new spirit; for why will ye die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God; wherefore turn yourselves and live ye." Ezekiel xviii. 31, 32.

"The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord: and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and soul, and mind and strength; this is the first commandment; and the second is like, namely this: thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these." Mark xii. 29—31.

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord,

Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven." Matt. vii. 21.

"Now we know that God heareth not sinners; but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth." John ix. 31.

"This is life eternal, that they might know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." John xvii. 3.

"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God." Heb. xii. 14.

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him; but let him ask in faith, nothing wavering." James i. 5.

"Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls; but be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." James i. 21, 22.

"If any man among you seem to be reli-

gious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. Pure religion, and undefiled before God, even the Father, is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." James i. 26, 27.

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world: if any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." 1 John ii. 15.

"If our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things: beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence towards God; and whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things which are pleasing in his sight." 1 John iii. 20—22.

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Rev. iii. 20.

"Behold, I come quickly, and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." Rev. xxii. 12.

"Even so come, Lord Jesus." Amen.

FIRST FORM FOR WORSHIP ON THE LORD'S DAY.

Scripture Sentences.

"Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." Psalm xxix. 2.

"When the wicked man turneth away from his wickedness that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive." Ezekiel xviii. 27.

"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise." Psalm li. 17.

"To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against him; neither have we obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in his laws which he hath set before us." Daniel ix. 9, 10.

"I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son." Luke xv. 18, 19.

"Enter not into judgment with thy servant, O Lord, for in thy sight shall no man living be justified." Psalm cxliii. 2.

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us; but if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John i. 8, 9.

Exhortation.

Dearly beloved brethren, the Scripture exhorteth us in sundry places, to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness before the face of Almighty God, our heavenly Father, with an humble, lowly, penitent, and obedient heart, to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by his infinite goodness and mercy. And as we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God, so should we in no wise fail to do when we meet together, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most Holy Word, and to ask those things which are desirable and necessary, as well for the body as the

soul: wherefore, I beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart and lowly spirit unto the throne of the heavenly grace.

General Confession.

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed, too much, the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done: and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare thou them, O God, who confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent, according to thy promises declared unto mankind by Jesus Christ, our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy name. Amen.

Supplication.

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desirest not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should turn from his wickedness and live, grant unto us, we beseech thee, true repentance, and the assistance of thy Holy Spirit, that those things may please thee which we do at this present time; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy; so that, at the last, we may come to thine eternal joy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name! Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us: and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Psalm C.

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before his presence with singing.

Know ye, that the Lord, he is God. It is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves. We are his people and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise. Be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good. His mercy is everlasting: and his truth endureth unto all generations.

[Here a Psalm or Hymn to be sung; after which read select portions of the Sacred Scriptures; then say]

Let us offer unto God the sacrifice of thanksgiving, for his abundant mercies unto us, and to all mankind.

General Thanksgiving.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving kindness to us, and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And we beseech thee,

give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we may shew forth thy praise not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days. Amen.

General Petition.

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, grant unto us, thy servants, a right judgment in all things. Give us a perpetual fear and love of thy name. Increase in us true religion, and establish our hearts in all goodness. Direct and preserve us in the way of thy truth, and in obedience to thy commandments: that, thou being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that finally we lose not the things that are eternal. Amen.

O merciful God, who, by thy son, Jesus Christ, hast overcome death, and opened unto us the gates of everlasting life, grant that we, thy servants, having this hope, may purify ourselves, even as he is pure; that, daily following the steps of his most holy

life, we may finally be received into thine eternal and glorious kingdom. Amen.

We beseech thee, O Almighty and Everlasting God, whose never-failing Providence ordereth all things in heaven and earth, to keep us continually under thy gracious protection. Mercifully look upon our infirmities, and for the glory of thy name turn from us all those evils which we have most justly deserved; and grant, that in all our troubles we may put our whole trust and confidence in thy mercy, and evermore serve thee in holiness and purity of life and conversation, through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.

[Here a Psalm or Hymn to be sung, after which read a Sermon.]

Intercessory Prayer.

We, sinners, do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God, and that it may please thee to bless all mankind with the saving knowledge of thy truth.

That it may please thee to guide and govern the church universal, enduing it plenteously with the gifts of thy Holy Spirit, and with that most excellent grace of charity.

That it may please thee to bless thy servant, our Sovereign, the Queen, to rule her heart in thy faith, fear, and love, to replenish her with the grace of thy Holy Spirit, that she may always incline to thy will, and walk in thy way; and that, finally, after this life, she may attain everlasting joy and felicity, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

That it may please thee to bless and preserve every member of the Royal Family.

That it may please thee to bless, protect, and guide the Magistrates and Judges of the land, giving them grace to execute justice and to maintain truth.

[That it may please thee to take under thy gracious protection and guidance the high Court of Parliament, at this time assembled; that all things may be so ordered by their endeavours, under thy blessing, that peace and happiness, truth and justice, pure religion and piety, may be established among us for all generations.]

That it may please thee to succour, help, and comfort, all that are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to defend and provide for the fatherless children and widows, and all that are desolate and oppressed.

That it may please thee to succour and support such of thy servants as are persecuted for conscience' sake, to bring into the way of truth all such as have erred, and are deceived; and to give to all thy people increase of grace, to hear meekly thy word, to receive it with pure affection, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit.

Concluding Prayer.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who hast permitted us at this time, with one accord, to make our common supplications unto thee; fulfil now, O Lord, we beseech thee, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them, granting us in this world, knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come, life everlasting. Amen.

Blessing.

Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, be with us all evermore. Amen.

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SECOND FORM FOR WORSHIP ON THE LORD'S DAY.

Scripture Sentences.

"Trust in the Lord at all times, ye people; pour out your hearts before him; for God is our refuge." Psalm lxii. 8.

"Seek ye the Lord, while he may be found; call ye upon him, while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him—unto our God, for he will abundantly pardon." Isaiah lv. 6, 7.

"The hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a spirit, and they who worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." John iv. 23, 24.

"O come, let us worship and bow down before the Lord our Maker."

General Confession.

O God, most holy, we bow before thee with deep humiliation of spirit. With penitent hearts we would confess our manifold offences. Thou, O God, hast done us good continually, yet we have sinned against thee. We have been too often unmindful of thy goodness and unthankful for thy mercies. We have too often forgotten that God who daily loadeth us with benefits. We have been ungrateful and rebellious children. Our hope, O God, is not in works of righteousness which we have done, but in thine infinite mercy declared unto us by Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Supplication.

O God, be gracious unto us, and visit us not in wrath, as our iniquities have most justly deserved. Spare thou them that confess and forsake their faults. Grant us repentance unto newness of life. Dispose us rightly to improve this holy day, and the various means of religion which we enjoy. May we cultivate becoming dispositions of

humility and piety. May we abhor sin, which alone separateth between man and his God. May we earnestly seek to be delivered from the power of temptation, and to be cleansed from all unrighteousness. Cleanse thou us, O God, we beseech thee, from all our secret faults, and keep back thy servants from all presumptuous and wilful transgressions: let them not have dominion over us. Search us, O God, and know our hearts: try us, and know our thoughts, and see if there be any evil way in us, and lead us in the way everlasting, for thy mercy's sake, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us day by day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Psalm xcv. 1—7.

"O come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills also is His. The sea is His, and He made it, and His hands formed the dry land. O come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For he is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand."

[Here a Psalm or Hymn to be sung, after which portions of Scripture to be read.]

General Thanksgiving.

O God, who art the Father of angels and of men, who art our God, and hast been our fathers' God throughout all generations, we thy dependent creatures desire to bless and magnify thy name for all thy mercies.

From thee, O God, cometh down every

good, and every perfect gift. To thee we are indebted, that we are rational and social, moral and religious creatures.

The numberless enjoyments which we derive from the various faculties with which we are endued, from the kind affections by which we are animated, and from the connexions and circumstances of life in which we are placed, are all the gifts of thy bounty. Thy name, O God, be praised for ever.

Through every period of our lives thy Providence hath watched over us, and thy goodness hath made us happy. In weakness thou art our strength, in sickness and sorrow thou art our exceeding great consolation and support. Thy kind hand protected our feeble infancy: and thou art the stay and solace of our declining years. Thy tender mercies have ever followed us. Even in the hour of affliction we have experienced thy loving kindness. Thou dost not wantonly grieve thy frail and dependent creatures, but chastenest us in mercy, that we may become partakers of thy holiness, and of eternal happiness.

O gracious Father, how merciful are all thy dealings towards us! and how precious is that *faith* which enables us to look up

unto thee as the Great Governor of the world, whose Providence is over all the works of thy hands, and without whom not even a sparrow falleth to the ground!

But above all, O God, do we bless thee, that we can look beyond the present world; that thou hast brought *life* and *immortality* to the clearest light by the Gospel of thy son, Jesus Christ our Lord; that through him thou hast graciously assured us we shall not die eternally.

Blessed for ever be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for us.

General Petition.

O gracious Father, enable us evermore to conduct ourselves in all respects as the heirs of a glorious immortality.

May it not be in vain for us, that light is come into the world; but professing ourselves disciples of the Lord Jesus, may we ever *act*, and *speak*, and *think*, as Christians.

May the same mind be in us which was also in Christ Jesus our Lord. May we drink of his divine spirit. May we imbibe his heavenly temper; and so follow in his footsteps here, that hereafter we may be permitted to behold his glory, and to dwell with him for ever.

We bless thee for the many advantages of a spiritual nature which we enjoy: more especially for these continually returning opportunities of Christian worship, for the ordinances of our holy religion, and for those Scriptures of consolation and of truth which are able to make us wise unto salvation.

We pray that we may be duly thankful for these great blessings, that we may diligently improve our means of grace, and finally grow up into a perfect man, into the fulness of the stature of Christ.

Let thy blessing, O God, be upon every individual here present. Give us the hearing ear and understanding mind. Shed abroad in our hearts the gracious influences of thy Holy Spirit. Lift up upon us the cheering light of thy countenance, and give us peace both now and ever, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

[Here a Hymn to be sung, after which the Sermon.]

Intercessory Prayer.

We beseech thee, O God of infinite mercy and compassion, to bless all mankind. Give unto all nations unity, peace, and concord. Bless them with the saving knowledge of thy truth. Upon every dark and benighted region of the earth may the sun of righteousness arise with healing in his beams. May all men become Christians, not in name only, but in deed, and in truth.

Especially in these lands of our nativity, Great Britain and Ireland, may pure and undefiled religion prevail.

Let it please thee to put an end to all idolatry, superstition, and false religion, and to all persecution for conscience' sake. May civil and religious liberty be ever maintained in the midst of us, and secured to our latest posterity.

Bless our Sovereign the Queen. Let it please thee to preserve her health, and to prolong her days. May she experience thy gracious assistance and support, and enjoy that spiritual favour, which is better than life. Bless all the Royal Family. May they be

good, as well as great; and adorning their high stations here with the lowly virtues of the Christian character, may they obtain hereafter that crown of glory which fadeth not away.

Counsel thou the Queen's counsellors, and teach our senators wisdom. May all magistrates and judges, and all who are in authority, discharge their respective trusts with fidelity and diligence.

Bless the ministers of thy son's gospel, of every church. Endue them plenteously with thy heavenly grace. May they be examples to the flock, that when the chief Shepherd shall appear, they also may appear with him in glory.

Have mercy, O God, upon all the children of affliction. May affliction have with them its perfect work. May they learn holiness from the things which they suffer, and, weaning their affections from this world, may they fix them upon those things which belong to their everlasting peace.

Let it please thee to bless and preserve all who are dear to us by any tie of kindred or affection. May their best, even their eternal interest prosper.

We beseech thee to reward all who have at any time designed or done us any good, and to forgive such as have injured or offended us. Dispose us all to lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty: and may we be enabled by thy grace so to pass through things temporal, that finally we lose not the things that are eternal. Amen.

Concluding Prayer.

O Lord, we beseech thee mercifully to receive the prayers of thy people who call upon thee; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil the same, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all evermore. Amen.

FIRST WEEK'S PRAYERS.

Sunday Morning.

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent; create in us new and contrite hearts, that we, duly lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our unworthiness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O Lord, our heavenly Father, Almighty and Everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day, defend us in the same by thy mighty power, and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings may be so ordered by thy Providence, that we may do always that which is righteous in thy sight.

More particularly, O gracious Father, who knowest the weakness of our nature, and the many temptations with which we are daily

encompassed, we beseech thee to have compassion on our infirmities, and to give us the constant assistance of thy Holy Spirit, that, as we desire to dedicate ourselves to thee, and thy service, we may be enabled successfully to withstand every temptation, and to persevere unto the end in the faithful discharge of every duty.

Suffer us not to set our affections on the perishable things of this world, but on those blessings eternal in the heavens, which thou hast prepared for those who love and serve thee. Make us to be faithful and diligent in the performance of the duties of our several stations, honest in all our dealings, and kindly affectioned one to another. Let it be our constant endeavour to love thee with all our heart, and soul, and mind, and strength, and to promote thy glory by doing good to all men, according to the abilities and opportunities which thou shalt grant us, that so, walking faithfully before thee in this life, we may finally inherit thy gracious promises declared unto us by Jesus Christ, our only Mediator.

O Lord, our God, who hast consecrated this day to thy service, give us grace so to

observe it, that it may be the beginning of a happy week to each of us. Fix in our hearts this great truth, that here we have no abiding place, that so we may seriously and timely provide for another life. And grant that this conviction may make us earnestly desirous to *learn* our duty, and to *do* all that thou requirest of us.

We desire to be truly thankful for the instructions of thy Holy Word, and we pray that thou wouldst prosper the labour of thy ministering servants, and give us grace to profit by them, that they and we may enjoy an everlasting Sabbath with thy saints in heaven, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. Our Father, &c.

Sunday Evening.

O Holy Lord God, we acknowledge and lament the many transgressions of our past lives in thought, word, and deed, whereby we have most justly incurred thy displeasure. Pardon, we humbly beseech thee, our offences; and assist us by thy Holy Spirit, to amend our lives, that as we grow in age we may grow in grace, and in the knowledge

of thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our only Mediator.

Lord of all power and might, who art the author and giver of all good things, graft in our hearts the love of thy name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of thy great mercy, keep us in the same, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Almighty God, by whom all things were made, and are preserved, give us grace to confide in thy paternal care; cheerfully to commit ourselves, and all that belongs to us, to thy merciful disposal; ever to look to thee for what we want; to be thankful for thy favours, and never to resist thy dealings with us, or neglect the means of grace which thy providence affords us. We bless thee, O God, who ever givest us what is best for us, who keepest us from dangers, and hast provided for us better than all our works can deserve.

Good Lord, make us mindful of our duty, that as we often hear how we ought to walk and to please thee, we may continue to do so to our lives' end; and let it please thee graciously to pardon whatever thine all-searching eye hath seen amiss in us through this day.

And now, O Heavenly Father, into thy hands would we commend our souls and bodies, our substance, our dwelling, and all that belongs to us, together with those most dear to us, beseeching thee, O God, to take us this night into thine especial care and protection. Preserve us from all danger and alarm. Refresh our bodies with quiet rest and sleep, and grant that we may rise to serve thee acceptably in our respective stations, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose holy name and words we would sum up our petitions for ourselves and for all mankind. Our Father, &c.

Monday Morning.

O most merciful God and Father, we bless thy holy name, that thou hast been pleased to protect us throughout the past night; and hast brought us to the light of a new day, with the refreshment of rest, and continuance of health. We acknowledge before thee our manifold offences. We are conscious of our own unworthiness, and that we have repeatedly transgressed thy holy word and will.

Assist us, we humbly beseech thee, in our

earnest endeavours after future amendment, and promote in us such a godly sorrow for our past misdeeds, as may finally produce in us a sincere and heartfelt repentance. We furthermore intreat thee to grant thine almighty aid and protection to this family, to continue to us throughout the course of this day thy providential care, to grant a blessing on our several labours and employments, and to enable us by thy grace so to purify our hearts, that we may daily improve in our imperfect endeavours to walk in the ways of thy law, and in the path of thy commandments.

Grant these our humble and earnest petitions through Jesus Christ, our blessed Lord and Saviour, for whose most gracious manifestation of thy divine will, and for the redemption of mankind through whom, we offer up our most unfeigned acknowledgements, beseeching thee to grant, that a due sense of these inestimable advantages may influence our conduct, and appear not only on our lips but in our lives, to the honour and praise of thy name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who hath taught us thus to pray: Our Father, &c.

Monday Evening.

O most gracious God, who desirest not the death of a sinner, but wouldst rather that he should repent and live, we acknowledge before thee, with heartfelt sorrow, our manifold offences; and we beseech thee, of thy great mercy, to accept our unfeigned contrition, and to forgive our sins. May the sincerity of our repentance be fully evinced by the whole tenor of our future lives and conversations. May thy law be in our hearts, that so we may delight to do thy will.

We bless thy holy name, that thou hast been pleased to preserve us throughout the past day, and to provide us with the necessary means for the support and comfort of our bodies. We pray thee, of thy fatherly goodness, to guard our slumbers and protect our rest; and grant that we may lie down this night, not unmindful of the night of the grave,—of that final rest, from which we shall rise to judgment, to receive every man according to the works done in the body.

Accept, O Heavenly Father, this our evening sacrifice of prayer and praise, and let our cry come unto thee, through Jesus Christ

our Lord and Saviour, for whose life and death, for whose holy doctrine and spotless example, for whose precious promises and gracious intercession in our behalf, we bless thee, and through whom we ascribe to thy divine Majesty everlasting praises. Amen.

Tuesday Morning.

O gracious God, our heavenly Father, we thank thee for our preservation and refreshment during the past night, and for the many comforts and blessings with which we are this day surrounded.

Possess our souls, we beseech thee, with such a sense of thy goodness, and of our dependence upon thee for life and health, and prosperity and comfort, that it may be our delight, as it is our duty and our interest, to serve and obey thee. Give us grace that we may continue in thy fear all the day long, and that we may live and act as having thee, O God, the constant witness of our conduct, and that it may be the purpose of our souls never wilfully to offend thee. Preserve us from the temptations of the world, from the

frailty of our own nature, and from the influence of evil examples.

Possess our hearts with a sincere love for thee, our Almighty Father and Friend, and grant that we may have this comfortable and sure proof of thy love abiding in us, that we study to please thee and to keep thy commandments.

Give us a tender compassion for the wants and miseries of our fellow-creatures, that thou, O God, mayest have compassion upon us. In all our ways, we would acknowledge thee. Do thou, O Lord, direct our paths, and teach us to guide our affairs and designs, our words and actions, with charity and discretion, with justice and piety. Shew us the way in which we should go, and give us grace to follow the conduct of thy good Spirit, that we may do our duty in that state of life in which thy Providence hath placed us.

May we ever remember that the night cometh, when no man can work, and that now is the time in which to provide for eternity. Grant, gracious God, that no worldly pleasure, or worldly business, may ever make us lose sight of death, or forget the dangers that surround us. Fill our hearts with a

dread of the judgments prepared for impenitent sinners, and with a deep sense of the blessings which will be the sure reward of all them that love thee and obey thy laws. We entreat it for thy mercy's sake in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Tuesday Evening.

We bless thy name, O God, that it hath pleased thee to add another day to the days of the years of our life; and that thou hast preserved us from all danger. For these and for all thy mercies, from day to day bestowed upon us, we bless thy good and gracious providence, most earnestly beseeching thee to pardon our offences of the day past, and to grant that they may never rise up in judgment against us. Lord, without thee, frail man cannot but fall; in all temptations, therefore, we beseech thee to succour us, that no sin may ever obtain the dominion over us. Give us a salutary dread of all vice. Make us truly sensible of the end of sin, and mindful of our own infirmities and backslidings.

Vouchsafe unto all sinners a true sense of

their unhappy state, a fear of thy judgments, and grace and strength to break their bonds. Enlighten our souls with the saving knowledge of thy truth. Correct us in mercy; and bring us back when we go astray. Make us ever mindful of our latter end; and fix in our hearts a lively sense of the happiness or the misery of the world to come. May the thoughts of death mortify in us all pride and covetousness, and inordinate love of this world. And may the firm belief of a judgment to come make us ever careful to please thee, our Lord and Judge, that so we may find mercy in that day. Take us, O Almighty God, together with all that are dear to us, this night, under thy gracious and powerful protection, and keep us in perpetual peace and safety, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O God, thou art our God. Early will we seek thee. Thou art good, and doest good unto all. Thy mercy is over all thy works. Thou madest us, and not we ourselves. We

are thy people and the sheep of thy pasture. We will, therefore, worship and bow down before thee, the Lord our Maker.

Unworthy as we are to appear in thy presence, thou hast invited us, by him whom thou lovest, to come boldly to the throne of grace, and hast promised that we shall find mercy to help us in the time of need. Grant that the frequency and earnestness of our prayers may be proportioned to the greatness of our wants. Make us to rejoice in every opportunity of worshipping thy Divine Majesty, and preserve us from the sin of drawing near to thee with our lips, whilst our hearts are far from thee.

We humbly thank thee, O Lord, that thou hast preserved us during the night past, and dost graciously renew unto us thy goodness this morning. Take us again under thy guidance and protection during the day, and so govern us by thy grace, that we may neither think, nor speak, nor do any thing this day which may displease thee or wound our own souls. Preserve us from the power of evil, from the temptations incident to our respective callings, from sinful desires, and the vanities of the world.

Let it please thee to direct and guide us in the ways and works of godliness, to purify our affections, and to enliven our devotion. Teach us how to pray, and how to hear, and read, and profit by thy Holy Word. Make us Christians in heart and in hope, and not in name only. Teach us the value of our souls, and of the salvation which has been wrought for us by Jesus Christ. Let our conversation be such as becometh his Gospel. And let the words of our mouth and the meditations of our heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our redeemer.

Give us grace, we beseech thee, to be just and honest in all our dealings, kind and charitable towards all men, sober, temperate, and chaste, and more particularly careful of the duties which we owe to one another as members of a Christian family: that having, by thy grace, been kept this day without sin, we may, at the close of it, lie down to rest with a peaceful conscience, and a sure trust in thy mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Wednesday Evening.

Eternal God and Father, by whom the whole family in heaven and earth are preserved, may all thy rational creatures adore with profound reverence thy glorious perfections. Especially may those who profess thy true religion live in perfect obedience to its laws; and as thou hast permitted us to aspire to heaven, as our final home, may we make every heavenly virtue our aim, and endeavour in some measure to be perfect, as thou our Father in heaven, art perfect.

We acknowledge our dependance upon thee in all things, and that we every moment subsist by thy bounty. Let thy good providence, which hath hitherto preserved us, be still our guide and support, supplying us with all things needful for us; that we may pass through this life without inordinate anxiety, and employ our chief care in preparing for a better.

Let a sense of our own infirmities and of that mercy and compassion which we need, and which we earnestly implore of thee, inspire us with meekness and humility, and with tenderness and compassion for the infir-

mities of each other. And pardon, we beseech thee, the many sins we have committed, and the many neglects of our duty towards thee; as we, from our hearts, forgive those that have injured or offended against us; and assist us by thy grace to withstand all future temptations.

May no vain confidence in our own strength tempt us to neglect those means which thou hast appointed to guard and strengthen our virtue. Let not our past iniquities provoke thee to withdraw thy Holy Spirit from us, but may thy Providence work together with us, that by watchfulness and prayer, and by the diligent observance of all the duties of religion, we may keep ourselves true and faithful to thy service, even unto the end, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O God, our heavenly Father, we desire this morning of a new day to present unto thee our grateful tribute of praise and thanksgiving, and to entreat thy blessing on all our undertakings. We thank thee that we ap-

pear before thee in health of body, in peace of mind, and with the free use of all our intellectual powers. Day after day we have experienced new and repeated instances of thy loving kindness and tender mercy.

We are deeply sensible, O God, that we have not made thee those returns of gratitude and cheerful obedience which thine unbounded goodness most justly demands. We have too seldom thought of thee, of thy works, of thy ways of providence and grace, and of thy holy word and commandments. We have been too much engaged in the cares and the pleasures of this mortal life, and too little occupied by the concerns of an eternal world.

We beseech thee to pardon our manifold offences, and to assist us by thy grace, that henceforth we may give all due diligence to prepare for that inheritance which is incorruptible, and that fadeth not away. May the hope of a glorious immortality, which is revealed in the Gospel, and promised to all those who love the Lord Jesus in sincerity and truth, animate us to abandon every evil thought, word, and work, diligently to cultivate every virtue, and to run joyfully the race set before us—looking for the glorious ap-

pearing of thee, the great God, and of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom be ascribed to thy Divine Majesty, the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Thursday Evening.

At the close of another day, we desire to worship and bow down before thee, the Lord our maker. All thy creatures, in the varied language of nature, speak thy praise. Shall man alone be silent? Shall he whom thou hast raised so far above the brute creation, to whom thou hast given the power of discovering thy perfections, and of adoring thy goodness, neglect to celebrate his Creator's praise? O God, we will praise thee, whilst we have our being. We will make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

We thank thee, O heavenly Father, for the gift of life, for the powers of our bodies and the faculties of our minds, for the social affections with which we are endued, and for the agreeable connexions in which we are placed. The world is not to us a solitary desert. Thou hast given us friends to cheer

and animate us on the journey of life. "Our lines are fallen to us in pleasant places, yea, we have a goodly heritage."

We thank thee, gracious God, for the mercies of the day past. Thou hast preserved us in existence. Thou hast filled our hearts with food and gladness, and hast given us richly all things to enjoy. When we survey thy manifold mercies towards us, displayed in our creation, in our preservation, and in our redemption by the Lord Jesus Christ, and at the same time consider how ill we have requited thy goodness, and how little we have merited thy mercies, we lament with unfeigned contrition the manifold instances of our ingratitude; and we earnestly desire henceforth to cease from doing evil, and to learn to do well.

Help us, O God, that we may bring forth fruits meet for repentance. May the numberless instances of thy mercy towards us powerfully constrain us to love thee, and to keep thy commandments. And, finally, having done thy will on earth, having finished our course with joy, may we obtain a crown of glory eternal in the heavens, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Friday Morning.

O heavenly Father, we bless thy holy name for all thy mercies bestowed upon us, and particularly for our preservation and repose during the past night. And since through thy mercy thou art now adding another day to our lives, we would here dedicate our souls and bodies to thy service. We would endeavour so to improve the time which thou shalt grant us in this world, that we may every day become better Christians; and be thou graciously pleased to strengthen and assist us, that as we grow in age, we may grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Grant us grace to have thee and thy law before our eyes, that we may walk in it, according to thy will, with watchfulness and circumspection. Keep us sober and temperate in all our enjoyments, and diligent in our several callings and professions. Dispose us to be just and upright in our dealings, quiet and peaceable among our neighbours, full of compassion towards the needy and afflicted, and ever ready to do good to all men, according to the abilities and opportunities

which thou shalt grant us; that so walking faithfully before thee all our days, and being found watching, whenever our appointed time shall come, we may, from a life of righteousness here, be raised to a life of glory hereafter, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

And now, O God, before we enter on the business of the several stations wherein thy providence hath placed us, we would humbly beg thy blessing this day upon our honest designs and undertakings. And as we desire to walk in a constant sense of thy all-seeing Providence, so let the same good Providence watch over us, and preserve us in our going out and in our coming in. Defend us from all dangers, and be graciously pleased to take us, and all things belonging to us, under thy fatherly care and protection. These things, O Lord, and whatever else thou shalt see necessary for our souls, our bodies, or estates, we humbly beg of thee for thy mercy's sake, in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Friday Evening.

O Father of mercies and God of love, in all humility we would approach the throne

of thy Majesty, to offer unto thee our unfeigned thanksgivings for all thy blessings bestowed upon us, thine unworthy servants. We thank thee for the gift of life, for our rational nature, for all our powers of mind and body, for our health, our friends, our food and raiment, and the numberless sources of enjoyment which thou hast graciously vouchsafed unto us. Above all, we adore thy tender mercy and compassion to us and to all mankind in sending thy beloved Son into the world, to redeem us from sin and death, to impart unto us the knowledge of our duty, and to raise us to the hope of eternal life.

We bless thee, for thy patience with us notwithstanding our many and great provocations, for all the directions and assistances of thy Holy Spirit, for thy watchful providence over us through the whole course of our lives, and particularly for the mercies of the past day; beseeching thee to continue thy blessings to us, and to give us grace to shew our sense of all thy mercies, by a sincere obedience to the laws of thy blessed Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Into thy hands, O gracious God, who neither slumberest nor sleepest, would we

commend our souls and bodies, our substance, our dwelling, and all things that belong to us, together with all that are dear to us, beseeching thee to take both us and them this night into thy fatherly protection. Defend us from all harm, and from groundless fears, that we may enjoy such refreshing sleep as may fit us for the duties of the following day. And, Lord, make us duly mindful of that time when we shall lie down in the grave, and grant us grace always to live in such a state, that we may never be unprepared to die; but that whether we live we may live unto thee; or whether we die we may die unto thee; so that living or dying we may be wholly thine, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Saturday Morning.

Most Holy and ever Blessed God, we, thy frail and dependent creatures, desire this morning to offer unto thee the tribute of our devout homage. We adore and bless thee, for thou art our merciful Creator, our constant preserver, and our bountiful benefactor. At home and abroad, by night and by day,

at all times, and in every place, Thou, O God, art present with us, and thy presence is our exceeding great consolation and support. In adversity and grief thou art our stay and comfort. In weakness thou art our strength. Thou healest our diseases. Thou redeemest our lives from destruction. Thou crownest us with loving kindness and with tender mercies. Surely, goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our lives. With what confidence, therefore, O gracious Father, may we repose in thy paternal goodness for the days that are yet to come!

Every thing around us and within us testifies thy love. The laws of thy providence, and the dispensations of thy grace, proclaim thine infinite goodness. The varying seasons, the uniform succession of day and night, the abundant provision which thou hast made for the supply of our wants, and especially the spiritual food with which thou hast fed us in the Gospel of thy Son Jesus Christ, are all irresistible demonstrations of thine infinite grace and mercy. We pray that the various instances of thy goodness may constrain us to love thee, as we ought, even with our whole soul. May we

evermore put our trust in thee, and yield an unreserved obedience to all thy commands, and entire submission to thy will.

Take us, O gracious God, under the guidance and protection of thy Providence through this day, and lead us in the paths of righteousness, for thy mercy's sake, in Jesus Christ our Lord, who hath taught us to pray after this manner, "Our Father," &c.

Saturday Evening.

O Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, who wast, and art, and art to come, the Eternal One, who fillest infinite space with thy presence, in whose sight even the angels are not perfect; may we, who are the frail and erring children of the dust, presume to approach thee, and bow ourselves down before the most High God?

Blessed be thy name, thou despisest not any thing which thou hast made. Thou condescendest to regard the lowest of thy creatures, and hast promised that thou wilt dwell with him that is of an humble and a contrite spirit. May we feel a becoming consciousness of our unworthiness.

With deep humiliation of spirit, we would confess our manifold offences. Wert thou strict to mark our iniquities, no human being could be justified in thy sight. But, blessed be thy name, thou delightest in mercy, and wilt accept the sincerely penitent, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Grant us thy grace, we humbly beseech thee, that we may bring forth the suitable fruits of unfeigned repentance. May we be clothed with true and genuine humility. May we put on the Lord Jesus Christ, that in all things being conformed to his divine image, and following in his most holy footsteps, we may hereafter be received into his eternal kingdom and glory.

We thank thee, O God, for the many mercies of the week past; and we desire to confide ourselves, and all that is dear to us, to thy protection and blessing through this night, beseeching thee of thy great mercy, to grant us the refreshment of quiet repose.

And let thy blessing be upon us and ours through thy holy day. Sanctify all our services to our spiritual edification, and to the glory of thy holy name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SECOND WEEK'S PRAYERS.

Sunday Morning.

Almighty and most Merciful God, who art the supreme object of religious worship, before thee would we bow down this morning of thy day with reverence and humility. With thankfulness and joy would we recollect and acknowledge thy various and unmerited goodness. In the helpless years of infancy and childhood thy hand supported and preserved us. In every stage of advancing life thy providence hath watched over us, and thy goodness hath ever sought our happiness. By thy care we have been defended from danger through the past night, and appear before thee this morning in health, and peace, and safety. Blessed be thy name for all thy mercies.

Especially, we thank thee for thy glad tidings of truth and love by Jesus Christ, and for all the means and opportunities of religious improvement which, as his disciples, we

enjoy. We pray that we may diligently avail ourselves of such opportunities; that we may never forsake the assembling of ourselves together in thy house of prayer; that while we draw near unto thee daily in the private closet, and offer unto thee without ceasing the secret service of the heart, we may rejoice also to go up to thy house, when thou callest us, with the voice of joy and praise, with the multitude that keep holy day.

May we this day enter thy courts with thankfulness and joy, and worship thee, the Eternal Spirit, in spirit and in truth. May we listen to the instructions of thy word with humility and seriousness. And may every exercise of religion contribute to prepare our minds for the changing scenes of this life, and especially for its awful close.

Grant thy blessing, O God, to the labours of thy faithful ministers in every Church. May their earnest endeavours to instruct the ignorant, to reform the wicked, and to establish the righteous in the paths of holiness and peace, be abundantly successful. And let it please thee to hasten the coming of thy glorious kingdom, when thy name shall be

acknowledged and adored throughout the earth; when all the kingdoms of the world shall become the kingdoms of our God and of his Christ. Our Father, &c.

Sunday Evening.

O Almighty and most Merciful God, who art our father, and the father of all the families on earth, we desire to bow down before thee with reverence and humility, and to worship in thy most holy fear.

We would venerate and adore thy glorious perfections. We praise thee, O God, for thou art great, and greatly to be praised. We bless thee, for thou art good, and thou doest good continually. Thou art the source of life and happiness to all that live. All our comforts and enjoyments proceed from thy bounteous Providence. In thee, O God, we live, and move, and have our being. By thee we are continually fed and nourished. Especially would we bless thee for our spiritual nourishment in the Gospel of thy Son Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

We thank thee for the holy precepts, for

the gracious doctrines, for the pure and perfect example, of our Lord Jesus Christ, and for the glorious hopes with which we are inspired by his Gospel. O gracious Father, may our conversation be ever such as becometh the Gospel of Christ. May we conduct ourselves as the heirs of a glorious immortality. May we not be conformed to this vain and perishing world, but rather transformed by the renewing of our minds, that we may know and do the whole will of God.

We bless thee for the institution of public worship, and for the opportunity we so frequently enjoy of hearing thy word read, and our duty explained and enforced. We pray that we may faithfully improve every such opportunity, that so at length we may grow up into the fulness of the stature of perfect Christians. Be thou graciously pleased to forgive whatever thine all-searching eye hath seen amiss in us through this day. Pardon, O God, we beseech thee, the imperfection and accept the sincerity of our services, for thy mercy's sake, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

We desire to offer up our prayers and intercessions in behalf of all mankind, and especially for those who are dear to us; be-

seeching thee to take them and us under thy gracious protection, to bestow upon us all needful blessings, and, above all, to bless us with thy favour, which is better than life. Lift up upon us, O God, the cheering light of thy countenance, and give us peace both now and for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Our Father, &c.

Monday Morning.

Almighty and most Merciful God, we thy dependent creatures desire, this morning of a new day, to worship and bow down before thee, the Lord our Maker. To thee, O God, we are indebted for life and breath and all things. We thank thee for the powers of our bodies, for the faculties of our minds, for our various temporal comforts, and for the many advantages of a spiritual nature, which we enjoy. Especially would we adore and bless thee for the institution of the Gospel, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory, by Jesus Christ our Lord.

We lament, O gracious Father, that hitherto our conduct hath been so little suited to the many advantages which we enjoy as the

disciples of thy beloved Son. Help us, we beseech thee, to bring forth the fruits of a true repentance. Henceforth may it be the chief study of our lives to act, and speak, and think, as Christians. Guide us, we humbly beseech thee, through the various duties of this day. Enable us to restrain our passions, and to govern our temper. In every thing we do or say, may we retain the remembrance that thou art present with us; and may we labour to approve ourselves in thy sight, that at the last, when our short day of life is ended, we may be admitted into thine everlasting kingdom and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Our Father, &c.

Monday Evening.

O Gracious and Merciful Father, at the close of another day would we, as grateful children, bow before thee, to acknowledge our constant dependence on thy bounteous Providence, and to bless thee for thy various mercies. Day by day thou givest us our daily bread. Thou feedest us with food convenient for us, and givest us richly all things to enjoy. We thank thee for the comforts

and blessings of the day which is past, for the bountiful supports of thy Providence, for the gracious assistances of thy Spirit, for the high privileges of our rational nature, and, above all, for the inestimable advantages we enjoy as Christians.

We acknowledge, O God, the sacred obligations to a life of holiness and virtue under which we are laid by faith in thy Son's Gospel. And we humbly confess, that we too frequently fall short of our duty, and have great reason to bewail not only the frailty of our nature, but our manifold offences. We earnestly beseech thee, O God, who art the great searcher of hearts, to forgive us, if we have this day cherished any thought, or uttered any word, or done any action, inconsistent with the purity, the integrity, and the sacred duties of the Christian character. May we seek thy forgiveness and thy favour, by stedfastly resolving to sin no more. And be thou graciously pleased to assist us by thy Holy Spirit to hold fast our virtuous resolutions, and to persevere unto the end in obedience to thy most holy laws.

Take us, O God, under thy gracious protection through this night. Let no evil come

nigh our dwelling. May thy servants rest in peace and security, and arise in health and vigour, grateful to thee, their Almighty Preserver, and disposed to manifest their gratitude by the steadfast and cheerful obedience of their lives. Grant this for thy mercy's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Tuesday Morning.

O God, our Father, who art in heaven, through thy care and goodness we have been preserved during the past night, and are restored to the light of another day, in the full enjoyment of health, and with the free use of all our powers.

To thee, therefore, O our Almighty Protector, do we offer up our united praises and thanksgivings. Lift up upon us, O God, the light of thy countenance, and dispose us with cheerfulness to enter upon the duties of this day, and to walk in all thy commandments blameless. May we carefully abstain from every thing in word or deed which might unnecessarily grieve or hurt our neighbour. May we diligently cultivate every kind and generous affection. Seeing that the same

Lord over all is rich in mercy unto all who call upon him, may we too be ready to do good unto all men, as we have ability and opportunity. May thy forbearance towards us lead us to the exercise of patience one towards another. May we forgive, as we ourselves hope and pray to be forgiven.

Assist us, we humbly beseech thee, to perform the duties of our respective stations with all fidelity and good conscience. May we give honour to whom honour is due, and owe no man any thing but love. In whatever situation thy Providence shall place us, may we be careful to manifest the genuine temper of our holy religion. May the spirit of Christian love animate all our words and actions; and may we so pass through the changing scenes of this life, that finally we lose not the life eternal. Our Father, &c.

Tuesday Evening.

O God, who art the Father of all the families on earth, in whom we live, and move, and have our being, we, thy dependent creatures, desire to worship and adore thy glorious Majesty; to bless thee for thy various and un-

merited mercies, and to implore the continuance of thy favour and loving-kindness. Thou, O God, art great, and greatly to be praised. Thou art worthy of the deepest veneration of all thy rational creatures. Blessed be thy name, that thou hast enabled us to know Thee, the only Living and True God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. Evermore may we serve thee with a perfect heart, and with a willing mind. Dispose us, we earnestly beseech thee, to raise our affections above the fleeting possessions of this transitory world, and to fix them upon those things which belong to our everlasting peace.

May we daily love thee more and more. May we steadfastly confide in thy goodness, and yield an unreserved and cheerful obedience to all thy commandments. Accept our thanksgivings for the mercies of the day which is past, and graciously pardon whatsoever thine all-searching eye hath seen amiss in us. We humbly acknowledge our unworthiness, and fervently supplicate thy merciful forgiveness.

Take us under thy gracious protection during the silent watches of the night. Let it please thee to preserve us from the terror

by night, as well as from the arrow that flieth by day, and the pestilence that wasteth at noon-day. In Thee, O God, do we put our trust, and to thy sacred name we would ascribe, through Jesus Christ, the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Wednesday Morning.

We look up unto Thee, O God, the Eternal Source of wisdom and purity, beseeching thee to enlighten our minds, to sanctify our hearts, and to grant us thy gracious blessing and guidance in all our ways. What we know not, teach Thou us. Give us a right understanding of that religion which is taught us in the Gospel of thy Son Jesus Christ.

May our hearts be endued with every pious and virtuous disposition; and under the influence of thy heavenly truth, may we correct all that is amiss within us, and continually improve in all goodness.

Throughout this day may thy unfailing bounty supply our various necessities. Prosper, so far as may be for our spiritual good, the labours of a temporal nature in which we are about to engage. Keep us unspotted from

the world; and, under all circumstances, assist us to maintain a serene, humble, and grateful spirit. Frequently may our thoughts ascend to Thee, our Ever-present Witness and Judge. May we refer all our actions to thy word, and be governed in all things by a supreme desire to please thee. Suffer us not to be satisfied with a low degree of goodness; but may we aspire with increasing ardour after the highest virtue which is possible to human frailty.

Great God, be Thou ever with us, and let thy Spirit help our infirmities. Conscious how often we have failed to accomplish the good we had intended, and fallen into the evil which we thought to have escaped—may we not lean to our own understandings, nor rely on our own unassisted strength; but may our confidence be in thy mercy, and our reliance on thy grace. Do thou strengthen and confirm our holy resolutions: fortify us to resist temptation, and cause us to come off more than conquerors, through him that loved us, and gave himself for us, who was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin.

We commend to thee, O God, all our rela-

tives and friends. We entreat thy compassion for the distressed, thy mercy for the erring and guilty, thy blessing upon all men. Favour the labours of benevolence. Promote the cause of useful knowledge in the earth. Extend the Christian religion to all nations: and may the Spirit of the Prince of Peace subdue the angry and revengeful passions, from which proceed wars and fightings among men. Let the divisions which any where exist be healed; and may the world be filled with divine glory, and peace, and mutual good will.

Our Father in heaven, in mercy accept these our devotions, through thy Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Wednesday Evening.

Most Merciful and Gracious God, who art the Source of light and life, from whom cometh down every good and every perfect gift, we, thy dependent creatures, desire to worship and bow down before Thee. We acknowledge our constant dependence upon thy Providence for life, and breath, and all things. It is of thy mercy that we are not

consumed. It is because thy compassions never fail, that our bodies still retain their health and strength. Through thy goodness our mental faculties continue unimpaired.

We bless thee, O God, for the many sources of intellectual enjoyment which we possess; for the powers of our rational nature, and for every favourable circumstance in our birth and education. We thank thee for the many advantages and pleasures which we have derived from social intercourse, and from the relations of domestic life. Blessed be thy name for that peace which hath been in our day; and for the preservation and security of our rights, civil and religious. Above all, we bless thee for the many spiritual mercies which we enjoy, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. Dispose us to be duly thankful for these great blessings, and to manifest the sincerity of our gratitude by the prompt and cheerful obedience of our lives.

Take us, O God, we humbly beseech thee, and all those whom we love, under thy gracious protection through this night. Encompass us with thy favour, as with a shield. Defend us from all evil, and preserve us from

all disquieting apprehensions. For in thee do we put our trust; since thou art mighty, and willing to assist and to save all who come unto thee in faith and sincerity, by Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.

Great and Glorious God, of whom, and by whom, and to whom, are all things, we, thy dependent creatures, desire to worship and bow down before the throne of thy Majesty. We revere thy glorious perfections. We acknowledge our constant dependence upon thy Providence, and humbly supplicate the continuance of thy fatherly mercies. Thy Wisdom, O God, cannot err, and thy Goodness is boundless as thy Power. Blessed be thy name, Thou makest all things to work together for good to them that love thee and keep thy commandments. Thy Providence is over all the works of thy hands, and thy tender mercies have followed us all the days of our lives. Thou hast ever rejoiced to promote our happiness. Thou hast done us good continually.

Continue unto us, O Gracious Father, we

humbly beseech thee, thy fatherly kindness. Let no evil this day befal us. Graciously supply our wants. Give us this day our daily bread, and dispose us to be thankful for the bounties of thy Providence. To thy goodness may we ascribe all our enjoyments, and may we trust in thee with perfect confidence. May we love thee, our Heavenly Father, with our whole soul; and, as obedient children, be ever disposed to do thy will with cheerfulness, and to bear thy will without a murmur.

Assist us, we earnestly beseech thee, to cultivate every virtuous and pious affection. Enable us, by thy grace, to avoid every snare, to govern our own spirits, and to walk with firm and steady step in the way of thy commandments. May we remember the shortness and uncertainty of human life, that every day brings us nearer to our last; and may we so number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. May it be our chief study to prepare for that last and awful day in which we must give an account of our stewardship: and grant, O God, that this joyful sentence may then be pronounced upon us, and upon all whom we love—" Well done,

good and faithful servants; enter ye into the joy of your Lord." We ask it for thy mercy's sake, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Our Father, &c.

Thursday Evening.

O Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, whom have we in heaven but Thee, or who is there that we should desire in comparison with Thee? Thou only art holy. Thou only art infinite in wisdom, unbounded in goodness, and almighty in power. Without Thee is nothing done. Thou ordainest all events. Even the most afflictive dispensations are the appointment of thy Providence. But in mercy dost thou chasten thy children, that they may become partakers of thy holiness, and of eternal happiness.

We pray that we may learn holiness from the various trials and sufferings of this mortal life. May affliction, whenever thou shalt see fit to visit us therewith, have with us its perfect work. May we meekly acknowledge thy chastening hand, and calmly submit to thy sovereign will; remembering the spotless example and the divine words of him who

said, "The cup which my heavenly Father hath given me, shall I not drink it? Not my will, O God, but thine be done!" And thus, having done thy will on earth, as it is done in heaven, and having borne thy will with meek submission, may we at length be deemed worthy to become partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light, and have an entrance ministered to us abundantly into thine everlasting kingdom and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We thank thee for thy gracious protection and support during the day which is past. It is of thy great goodness that we are spared, and again permitted to confide in thy merciful care through the silent hours of the night. Thou, O God, art our safeguard and defence. To thee do we commit our dearest interests, our beloved friends, our family, and home; beseeching thee to guard and preserve us from all harm, and to bestow upon us every needful blessing, and, above all, to bring us at length to thy heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Friday Morning.

O God, who art the source of existence and of happiness, with reverence would we bow down before thee this morning, and acknowledge thy being, perfections, and providence. We desire to worship thee with our bodies and our spirits which are thine, and to return thee our most sincere and fervent thanks for the daily supports and comforts of life, for the unspeakable benefits of the Gospel, and for the cheering prospect of a happy immortality. We thank thee for the safety and repose of the past night, and for the circumstances of health and peace in which we appear before thee this morning. Keep us, gracious God, this day from every evil. Bestow upon us every thing truly good for us. Preserve us from falling into sin through the influence of bad examples or our own evil passions. Dispose us, evermore, to avoid temptation, and carefully to shun the ways and counsels of men of corrupt and worldly minds. May we remember that we are ever in thy presence, and thus be enabled to keep a constant guard over all our

thoughts, words, and actions. Suffer not the world, O Gracious Father, nor the things of the world, to obtain too strong possession of our heart and affections. May we deny ourselves every gratification which might disturb the peace of our conscience, or hinder our progress in the paths of holiness and peace. Impress upon our minds, we earnestly beseech thee, a deep sense of our obligation to improve the many advantages we enjoy as the disciples of thy beloved Son.

If we have been early taught to know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent; if we have had a religious education and good examples; if we have been preserved from evil by the counsel and care of wise and good friends; finally, if we have been permitted to read thy Holy Word, which is able to make us wise unto salvation, and to worship thee as our understandings and conscience dictate; these inestimable blessings we owe to thy rich mercy and unmerited goodness. O may we not receive this grace of God in vain! but so improve our advantages, that we may every day become wiser and better unto eternal salvation.

Hitherto our conduct, we confess, O gracious

God, hath not been suited to our Christian profession. But, we beseech Thee, who art abundant in mercy and forgiveness, to pardon our past misconduct, and to grant us continual supplies of thy Grace and Help, that, for the time to come, we may walk, as in thy presence, with a perfect heart. And, finally, may we so live the short remainder of our lives, that we may have good hope in death, and that after death we may be admitted to the participation of endless joys, with the spirits of the Just made perfect, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Friday Evening.

O Glorious and ever Blessed God, who art the King of kings, and Lord of lords, who art Eternal, without beginning of days or end of years; we, thy frail and dependent creatures, desire to approach the Throne of thy Majesty with humility and reverence. We worship thee, as the Almighty Parent of the Universe, as the source of all life and being, the inexhaustible fountain of perfection and of happiness. We bless thee that thou hast created man upon the earth, and hast made

him to be an image of thy own glorious perfections. We thank thee for the various powers and faculties which we possess, and, above all, that we are capable of knowing, loving, and adoring thee, the only living and true God. We thank thee for the light of nature, but more especially for the glorious light of thy Son's Gospel. Blessed be thy name, that when all mankind were sunk in ignorance and vice, Thou didst send thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to dispel the thick darkness, and to become the light and life of the world. May it not be in vain for us that Christ hath lived, and died, and risen again from the dead; but may we, professing ourselves his disciples, be Christians, not in name only, but in deed and in truth. Suffer us not to fall from our steadfastness; but enable us to persevere unto the end in the path of Christian duty: and may we find, by sweet experience, that the ways of wisdom are the ways of pleasantness, and that all her paths are peace.

We thank thee, O God, for the mercies of the day past, and we desire to commit ourselves, and all whom we love, to thy protecting care through this night. Beneath the

shadow of thy wings we will lay ourselves down to rest, with perfect confidence in thy love; and unto thee will we ascribe, now and evermore, through Jesus Christ our Lord, all glory and honour, dominion and power, and blessing and praise. Amen.

Saturday Morning.

O God, most Merciful, our Almighty Creator, and continual Preserver, at the throne of thy Grace would we this morning present our humble addresses of praise and thanksgiving. We have slept in safety, and risen in health, for Thou hast sustained us. It is of thy mercies that we are not consumed. It is because thy compassions never fail, that day after day reneweth the springs of life and joy. What shall we render unto thee, O God, for all thy mercies? They cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee. If we would declare and tell them, they are more than can be numbered. We confess, O gracious Father, that we are unworthy of thy mercies; for we have ill requited thy various goodness. We have not been duly grateful to thee, the Parent of our lives, and the bountiful Author of all our enjoyments. But we know that

May we labour to acquire the government of our hearts, that we may neither be too much elated by prosperity, nor too much depressed by adversity. In what condition soever thou shalt see fit to place us, may we be therewith content; since we are persuaded that thou carest for us, and that thou alone knowest what is best for us.

We desire to commend ourselves, and all that are dear to us, to thine almighty protection and blessing, through the hours of another night, beseeching thee to guard us from all evil, and to grant us healthful and refreshing rest; that so we may be fitted and disposed to discharge with becoming fervour the sacred duties of thy holy day, as the faithful disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

THIRD WEEK'S PRAYERS.

Sunday Morning.

O Lord God Almighty, we have heard with our ears, and our fathers have told us, what good works thou didst in their days, and in the old time before them. The past

was full of thy love; and the present is not less so. Evil and unthankful as we are, we have tasted and seen that thou art always good. Therefore, we too will draw near unto thee with thanksgivings, and praise and serve thee, even as our fathers did.

From week to week, and from day to day, we have reposed in safety under thy protection, and fed upon thy bounty; and if we now appear before thee, the living to praise thee, it is in the multitude of thy tender and undeserved mercies. Truly there is none other that careth for us, but only thou, O God.

Our sins and frailties are none of them hidden from thee. Thine eye pierceth through every disguise. Thou seest us as we are, in all our weakness, folly, and sinfulness; and yet thou lovest us. Thou entreatest the prodigal to return to himself and to thee, and to seek again the home which he has forsaken, in thy paternal arms. Thou sayest to thy rebellious children, "Why will ye die?" O may we listen to the pleadings of a father's love. May we truly repent of every thought, word, and deed, by which we

have sinned against thee. May we faithfully resolve, without loss of time, to arise, and go to our father.

This day reminds us of thy great love to us in Jesus Christ, who, for us men, and for our sakes, lived, and died, and rose again from the dead, and who hath gone to prepare a place for us, that where he is, there we may be also. As disciples of the risen Saviour, may we rise from the death of sin. May we seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on thy right hand. May thy peace rule in our hearts. May thy word dwell in our minds; and whatsoever we do in word or deed, may we do all as Christ's true disciples, giving thanks unto thee, the infinite and eternal Father, through him.

Be present, O God, we beseech thee, in all thy churches, this day. Encrease the number of those that worship thee in spirit and in truth. Graciously accept their heart-felt offerings of praise and thanksgiving, and return an answer of peace unto their prayers. Amongst those who draw near unto thee with a pure and spiritual sacrifice, may we and all whom we love be found; and may the hom-

age which, with lowly minds, we unite to offer unto thee here below, help to prepare us for the better services of thy temple above.

Erect thy kingdom in our hearts; make us instrumental in extending it in the world; and hasten the arrival of that time when all shall know, and love, and serve thee in a truly filial spirit, and thy will shall be done on earth, even as it is done in heaven. As disciples of Jesus Christ we ask for every blessing, and ascribe unto thee, through him, never-ending praises. Amen.

Sunday Evening.

Most gracious and merciful God, at the close of this day of rest and devotion, we would once more meet around the domestic altar, and, as members of a christian family, commend ourselves, each other, and those absent objects of our love, whom we would never forget to bear upon our hearts before thee, to thy protection and blessing.

We thank thee for all thy mercies to us in time past,—for all those blessings, temporal and spiritual, of which we have so largely and unceasingly partaken. We bless thy name for

the liberal portion which thou hast given us of the bread that perisheth. Thou knowest what we have need of, even before we ask it; and the hand which provideth food for the fowls of the air, and raiment for the lilies of the field, hath not left our wants unsatisfied. Thou hast caused us to rejoice with every creature, in that thou hast given us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, and filled our hearts with food and gladness.

But we are more especially grateful for those higher and better blessings which we have this day been invited to acknowledge, and exhorted to improve. We thank thee for the bread of life which came down from heaven,—even the Gospel of Jesus Christ thy beloved son; for the words of truth which he spake; for the actions of love which he performed; for the immortal hopes which he has awakened in our breasts; and for the sure pledge which he has given, by his own resurrection from the dead, that those hopes shall be fulfilled.

May it not be in vain for us that his words have been spoken in our ears, and that his example has been placed before our eyes. May we walk in his footsteps. May we im-

bibe his spirit. Calling ourselves disciples of Christ, may we think, and speak, and act as children of God.

Nor is it only for ourselves, and for those included in our own household of faith, that we would thus pray; but for all who have taken the name of Christ upon them,—for our fellow christians of every sect. Unite *our* hearts and *theirs*, we beseech thee, with bonds that shall never be broken, in thy true faith, and fear, and love. Overrule our involuntary errors for good. Bring us all nearer to each other, by bringing us nearer to thyself, and to that truth of thine which we are all of us seeking. Make us one, with him whom thou has sent, and with thee.

O thou universal Father, hear our prayers for those also upon whom the light of the gospel has not yet shone, or from whom it is hidden by any earthly obstruction. We rejoice to believe that thou wilt demand from none of thy children more than thou givest them the power and means to perform. Instruct the ignorant, we earnestly entreat thee; help the unbelief of those who seek the truth with sincere minds, but cannot find it; assist and bless all in the willing improvement of those talents, whether few or many, which

thou hast entrusted to their care. As disciples of Jesus Christ we pray unto thee, for ourselves, for those whom we love, and for all men, ascribing unto Thee, as he has taught us, glory in the highest. Amen.

Monday Morning.

O Almighty God, who dwellest in the highest heavens, and yet vouchsafest to regard the lowest creatures upon earth, we humbly adore thy Divine Majesty, and with all the powers of our minds, and affections of our hearts, would magnify thy Holy Name for the numberless blessings which thou hast bestowed upon us. We give thanks unto thee, that thou hast created us in thine image, elected us in thy love, redeemed us by thy Son, sanctified us with thy Spirit, preserved us in all the changes and chances of this life, and raised up our thoughts to the hope of a better. Blessed be thou, O Lord, who hast graciously protected us during the hours of darkness, and brought us safely to the beginning of another day! Continue thy mercy to us, we beseech thee, and as thou hast awakened our bodies from sleep, so raise our

souls from sin, that we may walk soberly and chastely as in the day, in all holy obedience before thy face.

Deliver us, O merciful God, from the evils of this day, and guide our feet in the ways of peace; strengthen our resolutions to embrace with gladness the opportunities of doing good which are presented to us, and carefully to avoid all occasions of sin, especially those which we have found by experience to be most dangerous to our souls; and when, through frailty, we forget thee, do thou in thy mercy remember us; that as we often fall by the evil inclinations of our nature, we may always rise again by the assistance of thy grace. Make us diligent in the duties of our calling and state of life, and not too solicitous for the success of our worldly affairs; but willing, in all the miseries and crosses of this world, implicitly to submit to thy divine pleasure, and wholly to rely on thy merciful Providence.

Let thy blessing be upon our actions, and thy grace direct our intentions, that the whole course of our lives, and the principal designs and wishes of our hearts, may always tend to the advancement of thy glory, the good

of others, and the eternal salvation of our own souls. O Lord God! command what thou pleasest, and give us grace to perform diligently what thou commandest; permit what seemeth good unto thee, and give us grace to suffer patiently what thou permittest. Let thy blessing descend upon us, and dwell in our hearts for ever, which we humbly ask, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Monday Evening.

O Lord, our God! thou hast made us in thine own image and likeness, and thou lovest the work of thy hands. Thou doest us good continually; thy work of love beginneth not with the morning, nor endeth with the evening; thou art ever opening thy hand to pour out thy mercies upon us, never forsaking us, if we forsake not thee; and still calling upon unhappy sinners that have forsaken thee, to return. Thou hast promised mercy to such as sincerely seek it, grace to such as heartily pray for it, and eternal salvation, through our Lord Jesus Christ, to such as persevere

to the end in thy fear and love. Therefore, do we come before thee with strong hope, trusting to find mercy in the forgiveness of our sins, and grace so to spend the remainder of our mortal lives, that we may be the joyful heirs of a happy eternity.

Our hope is in thee, O Lord! let us never be confounded! With our whole hearts would we praise and magnify thy name for thy great and innumerable benefits, proceeding purely from thy bounty, and intended wholly for our good; particularly do we thank thee for preserving us this day in the midst of so many dangers incident to our condition, and for delivering us from so many calamities and miseries which our sins have deserved, or to which our frailties have exposed us.

Thou art our Creator, O God, and our kind Protector; under the shadow of thy wings is perpetual repose, and from the light of thy countenance flows eternal joy and felicity; to thee be glory and honour, to thee be adoration and obedience, from all thy creatures for ever. And since thou hast ordained us the day to labour, and the night to take our rest; as we praise thee for the bless-

ings of the day past, so we beseech thee for thy protection during the night to come. Let the eye of thy providence watch over us, that, being safely delivered from all dangers, and comfortably refreshed with moderate sleep, we may be enabled on the morrow rightly to perform the employments, and bear the trials, of our calling and state of life.

Grant, O good Lord, that we may faithfully persevere in the duties of thy service, and so daily advance to new victories over our passions, and to a more perfect observance of thy commandments; that, having passed our days in thy fear, we may end them in thy favour, and rejoice with thee for ever in thy heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Tuesday Morning.

Almighty God, who art the fountain of being and of happiness, we desire to approach thee this morning with true devotion of spirit. We would praise thee for our past mercies; and, in the exercise of a lively faith, we would implore the continuance of thy Fatherly mercies.

Take us, we beseech thee, under the guidance and protection of thy Providence through this day. In our several callings and occupations may we abide with thee, being not slothful in business, but fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. Help us so to conduct ourselves through the hours of every day, whether at home or abroad, whether in society or alone, whether busy or at rest, that we may be able to look back with satisfaction, and forward with hope. May the labours of life be pursued to thine honour, and the refreshments of life be received with temperance, sobriety, and thankfulness. Whether we eat or drink, or whatsoever we do, may we do all to the glory of God.

Lord, we confess that we are too prone to forget thee, who art never unmindful of us; and to disobey thee, whose goodness towards us is unwearied. For these things we desire, O Lord, to humble ourselves before thee, entreating thee, for thy mercy's sake in Christ Jesus, to work in us true repentance, and to grant us full and free forgiveness.

Help us to walk with thee, our God, in a course of holy living, and never suffer us to give way to loose thoughts, to idle words, or

unguarded passions. Let us not regard iniquity in our hearts, lest when we stretch forth our hands to thee, thou shouldest hide thy face from us. May our prayers be the prayers of the upright; and being offered up with faith, in the spirit of love, may they receive an answer of peace. We ask it as disciples of Jesus Christ, through whom be glory to God, even our Father, now and for ever. Amen.

Tuesday Evening.

O Lord, Thou ever-present and all-seeing God, who compassest our path, and art acquainted with all our ways, again we desire to approach thee with unfeigned reverence and deep humility. We confess our manifold offences; and we desire to abhor and to forsake our sins. Perfect, O Lord, that which concerneth us; and make us such, both in our hearts and lives, that we may enjoy thy peace here, and be meet for the inheritance of the saints hereafter. Speak peace to our conscience. Lift up upon us the cheering light of thy countenance, and

bless us with thy favour, which is better than life.

As thou hast been gracious to us through the day past, continue thy fatherly care over us this night. Preserve and defend, bless and keep us, that no evil may befal us, nor any plague come nigh our dwelling. Vouchsafe to favour us with such needful rest as may refresh and strengthen us for thy service, and our respective duties, on the ensuing day. Prepare us, merciful God, for our final sleep, and for the account which we must shortly give at the tribunal of our Judge. Make us, in this our day, to know and to follow after the things which pertain to our everlasting peace, before they are hidden from our eyes. And when our souls shall be required of us, may we resign them into thy hands with humble confidence in thy love and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O God, the High and Holy One, who inhabitest eternity, yet humblest thyself to behold the things that are upon the earth,

we adore and bless thee, for all thy goodness to us, and to all men. Thou placest the solitary in families. Thou hast chosen our inheritance for us, and united us together by the bonds of nature and affection. Thou hast watched over our defenceless hours. Thou hast given us the refreshment of rest, and the continuance of health. Thou hast spread our table for us, and hast blessed our downsitting and our uprising, our going out and our coming in. Thou hast given us also the unspeakable comfort of thy holy word, and hast enriched us with all spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We now again commit ourselves to thy mercy and goodness. Let thy mercy forgive our sins, and thy goodness provide for us, and defend us. Let it please thee graciously to supply our wants, and whether we wake or sleep, at all times and in every place to keep us in perpetual safety. May we be ever thine, wholly devoted to thy fear, and possessing an everlasting interest in thy love.

To our fellow-creatures may we always act with integrity and kindness. Help us to serve each other in love. May we bear one another's burdens, exercising mutual sympa-

thy and forbearance, and living together as joint heirs of a glorious immortality. May love reign in our hearts, and peace be within our dwelling, that so Thou, the God of love and peace, mayest be with us. Assist and prosper us in all our righteous undertakings. Let it please thee to keep sickness and distress of every kind from our dwelling, and to continue us in life and health, that so at length we may come in full maturity to the grave, like as a shock of corn is gathered in its season. May thy goodness and mercy preserve and bless all who are united to us by any tie of kindred or affection. Prepare them and us for the changing scenes of this life, and for that better life promised by thy beloved Son to all his faithful followers. And, through him, to God only wise, be all glory and honour and blessing and praise, now and evermore. Amen.

Wednesday Evening.

O Thou Everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth, who faintest not, neither art weary; from whose knowledge we

cannot hide ourselves, and from whose presence we cannot flee; we desire to worship thee with becoming humility and reverence. Though thou art great thou hast respect unto the lowly. Thou art nigh unto all that call upon thee; to all that call upon thee out of a pure heart, in spirit and in truth. Our mouths shall speak thy praise, and all our powers shall magnify thy holy name.

We acknowledge, O God, with thankfulness, thy manifold mercies. Thou hast fed us from our youth up. Thou hast caused our cup of blessings to overflow. Thou hast given us, moreover, the true bread from heaven, blessing us with all spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus, our Lord. But, conscious as we are of our own unworthiness, it becometh us to humble ourselves before thee, and to confess that our only hope is in thy mercy, who willest not that any should perish, but that all men should come to repentance and salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Enable us, we beseech thee, to comply with the terms of that covenant of mercy and forgiveness which he hath sealed with his blood; that so we may have part in that glorious resurrection unto eternal life, which

he hath revealed and promised. Let not our hearts be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. Quicken our desires after thee, and help us, with full purpose of heart, to cleave unto Thee, the Lord.

Under the various duties which lie before us, and the many temptations to which we are daily exposed, may we remember that our wisdom is but ignorance, and our strength but weakness. May we, therefore, have recourse to thy wisdom, which cannot err, and to thy power, which cannot be resisted. May that wisdom guide us, and that power preserve and bless us. And having here sown to the Spirit, may we hereafter, of the Spirit, reap life everlasting, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thursday Morning.

O Heavenly Father, we would bless and praise thy name, that we are again summoned into thy presence, to pay our united vows and thanksgivings unto thee the Most High; that, having been mercifully preserved in safety through the hours of darkness and repose, we are permitted to enter upon the

duties of another day, and to renew our earnest endeavours, with thy gracious aid, to correct what has been wrong in our past conduct, and to testify an increased love for thee, by a more prompt and unreserved obedience to thy holy will.

Surely, goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our lives. Thine hand has been always over us for good. Through every period of our being thy providence hath been our guide and support; and thy goodness hath enriched us with blessings, more than we could ask or think, far more than we were worthy to receive.

We owe it to thee that we have been blessed with health, and the means of supporting life in peace and comfort; that we have tasted the pure pleasures of society and friendship; that we have read of thee in thy book of nature, and thy book of revelation; that we have had access to the fountain of living waters; and that the glory of the Father has been reflected upon us from the countenance of the Son. Blessed be thy name for the precepts, promises, life, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We would lament, O God,—give us grace to do so deeply and effectually,—that we have often left unacknowledged and unimproved these, and the numberless other mercies, with which thou hast caused our cup to run over. We have allowed thy blessings and thy chastenings to pass unregarded. We have refused to listen to thy paternal voice. We have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed; and we deserve not that thou shouldst look upon us with an eye of love, and call us thy children.

Yet unto thee, the fountain of mercy,—unto thee, who hast graciously declared that thou desirest not the death of the sinner, but rather that he should turn from his wickedness and live, we will humbly lift up our eyes, and offer up our prayers, for that pardon which we need. Thou despisest not the sighings of the contrite heart. Thou rejectest not the desire of the sorrowful. Turn us, we beseech thee, from the error of our ways. Cause us to see, and feel, our folly and ingratitude, in having sinned against thee. Help us, while we strive, by thy grace, to help ourselves; work with us, and in us, both to will and to do. Purify and save us.

Henceforth may we live as seeing thee who art invisible. With no careless eye may we behold thee in the works of thy hand. From the contemplation of the beauties of nature may our thoughts constantly ascend unto thee, the God of nature, the Great First Cause, and constant upholder of all things.

In the dispensations of thy providence may we rejoice to recognize the mercy which never faileth, guided by the wisdom that cannot err, safely conducting thy children to their highest happiness; and, where thy decrees are to us unsearchable, may no doubt shake our steadfast faith, but may we await, with lively hope and cheerful confidence, the arrival of that approaching day, when the darkness of our minds shall be dispelled, and we shall see thee as thou art,—not as we now see thee, through a glass darkly.

Lord, be with us while we live in this world, and when we die take us unto thyself. In thee may we, and all whom we love, seek our refuge, and find our happiness, through every stage of an endless being; and unto thy holy name be everlasting praises ascribed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thursday Evening.

Gracious God, the day is thine, and the night also is thine. At thy command the sun ariseth, and man goeth forth to his work and to his labour, until the evening; and it is thou who makest the darkness, and it is night, wherein all the beasts of the forest do creep forth. We thank thee, O Father, for these grateful alternations of action and repose. We thank thee for the refreshment which sleep brings to our wearied powers; for the rest which it permits us to enjoy from fatiguing labour, and from painful thought; for the renewed strength which it gives both to our bodies and our minds.

May we use this good gift of thine as not abusing it. Ceasing for a short season, by thy kind permission, from works of love and duty, may we only do so to begin them again at thy bidding with enlarged experience and increased vigour. May we awake from peaceful slumbers, indulged in moderation, to enter with cheerful diligence on our daily task; and may we resolve and endeavour, by thine assistance, to make each future day an improvement upon those which have preceded it.

When we look back, O Heavenly Father, as we would now do, upon the days and hours that are gone to return no more, we see abundant grounds of sorrow and self-condemnation,—more than sufficient reason to beat upon our breasts and say, "Lord, be merciful to us sinners." How great, O God, from hour to hour and from day to day, has been thy tender mercy, and how imperfect our obedience! What numberless blessings hast thou showered down upon us, and how small is the return that we have made of active service, or even of grateful feeling! Truly we have been unprofitable servants.

Pardon us, O Father, we beseech thee. Thou knowest our frame, thou rememberest that we are dust. Grant us thine aid that we may grow in grace. Enlighten our minds with knowledge. Purify our hearts from sin. Strengthen and establish our good resolutions. May the close of our lives be better than the beginning. May our last days be our best days.

With prayer for ourselves we would not forget to unite intercession for those whom we love. Bless, we beseech thee, with the blessings which thou seest that they most

need, all our dear absent friends, those who are united to us by the close ties of kindred, and those who have been made one with us by acts of kindness and feelings of social sympathy. May all our brethren of the human race find favour in thy sight.

Searcher of hearts, thou knowest the wants of every creature. Adapt thy willing mercies to our several necessities. Bestow upon us what is good, though we ask it not. Withhold from us what is evil, though we earnestly desire it. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we pray for every blessing, and through him ascribe unto thee never-ending praises. Amen.

Friday Morning.

O Lord God, Most Merciful, it is of thy great mercy that we again appear before thee, the living to praise thee. When our eyes were closed in slumber, the eye that slumbereth not was upon us. When our limbs were powerless for defence, the all-powerful arm was around us, to guard us from harm. Thy children have great cause to rejoice, O God, that thine infinite power, wis-

dom, and goodness never sleep,—that by night, as well as by day, thou art love, and dwellest in love. The strongest of our feeble race need frequent rest from those labours which are most easy and pleasant to them; even the young men faint and are weary; but thou, Father, workest every where and always, and thy thoughts and deeds of love are without beginning, without intermission, and without end. Wonderful, beyond thought, is that benevolence which, in ceaseless exertion, findeth its only rest.

Assist us to imitate thee, so far as we have the power, in the diligent performance of our work. However mean and insignificant it may seem in itself, may it derive importance in our eyes from the consideration, that it is the work which thou hast assigned to us. Suffer us not to become weary in well-doing sooner than the weakness of the flesh unavoidably compels. Let not thy beloved Son have just cause to complain of us, that we could not watch with him one hour; but grant that, after his example, we may work while it is called to-day, as those who know that the night cometh, in which no man can work.

Go forth with us this morning, we humbly and earnestly pray, to the duties which thou hast given us to perform. Strengthen us with strength both in the outward and the inward man. Enable us to frame our plans of action wisely and virtuously; and whatsoever our hands find to do, may we have grace to do it with our might.

All-seeing God, the bodily and mental powers of each one of us are perfectly known unto thee; what we are cannot be hidden from thine eye, and thou knowest what we ought to be. Set the standard of duty before us in a clear light, we beseech thee; give us self-knowledge to see distinctly where, and how far, we fall short of it; and let thy powerful aid concur with our own earnest and persevering efforts, to correct whatever has been wrong or defective in our past temper and conduct, and to promote our future progress in holiness and virtue.

Whether we be called to do or to suffer, may we make thy will our own. May we finish the appointed work. May we drink the offered cup. And do thou pardon our frequent failures; pity and help our weakness; and grant us that aid without which our own unassisted strength must fail.

With us, bless, we beseech thee, those whom we love, and for whom it is our duty and privilege to pray. May our friends be thy friends. May our brethren in the flesh be thy children in the spirit. And may they and we, having lived by the same faith and in the same hope in this world, become joint partakers, in thine own due time, of the same infinite and eternal reward. Grant these things, O God, for thine infinite mercy's sake, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Friday Evening.

Ever-present and All-seeing God, we have nothing to disclose unto thee; for that which we know only in part thou knowest perfectly. Our inmost nature stands revealed before thee. All the circumstances in which we are placed, and all the influences which act upon us, thou seest, because thou ordainest.

Thy searching eye discerns the nature, the causes, and the consequences of every action that we perform, and of every event that affects our destiny. Thou compassest our daily path and our nightly bed, and art acquainted with all our ways. Even better than we know ourselves, thou knowest us.

There is not a word on our tongues or a thought in our hearts, but lo! O Lord, thou knowest it altogether.

Wherefore, then, should we speak unto thee of that which thou knowest? Why should we give utterance to thoughts and feelings which thou readest in our hearts? What need hast thou that any man should pray unto thee? Gracious Father, thou condescendest to the weakness of thy children. For our sakes thou invitest us to hold private and social communion with thee. Thou permittest us to address unto thee an outward service, that the inward may not be forgotten. Thou enjoinest the sacrifice of the lips, as the symbol of the sacrifice of the heart.

That we may dwell on our good thoughts, and fix them in our minds, and cause them to abide there as unfailing springs of action, thou hast invited us to spread them before thee, and hast promised to incline thine ear when we give a feeble utterance to them in prayer.

It is not the spoken word, O Lord, that thou regardest, but the thought which it sincerely expresses, and helps us for a season to retain. A mere lip-service, we know, that

thou wilt not accept. Thou acknowledgest as true worshippers those only who worship thee in spirit and in truth. Make us of that number, we beseech thee.

Assist us in our endeavours to realize thy presence by reflection, to see thee always with the mental eye, though with the bodily we cannot see thee. When we walk in the midst of our fellow-men, even while those whom we best love surround us, may we inwardly discern the purifying and strengthening, cheering and consoling, presence of an infinitely greater, wiser, and better being than they; and when they are scattered every man to his own home, and we are left alone, may such solitude seem not to us solitude, but may we be able, each one of us, to say with our Master, "and yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me."

Thou *art* with us, O Father, every where and always; in the busy world, round the domestic hearth, and in the private closet,—when the light shines upon us, and when the darkness covers us. Thine eye of love is never closed. Thine arm of power is never withdrawn.

Through the past day, though we have

not kept thee always before us, we have been always before thee; and all thy dealings towards us, and in our behalf, have been in mercy. During the coming night, when we cannot watch for ourselves, thine eye, which never slumbereth, will be upon us.

Give us, if it please thee, sweet and refreshing repose. May our waking thoughts be holy and peaceful. Vouchsafe to impart to us of thy good Spirit, when we commune with our own hearts upon our beds, and are still. And may our silent meditations, and our healthful and moderate slumbers, alike contribute to prepare us for the active duties of the following day. Hear and answer our prayers, O God, we beseech thee, for thy mercy's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.

Paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer.

O God, our Father, and the Father of all men,—who art at once the greatest, the wisest, and the best of beings,—whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain, and who yet beholdest, with an eye of tender compassion, every dweller upon earth,—we pray that all thy children, every where, may know, and reve-

rence, and love thee, and find, in filial devotion to thy service and obedience to thy will, the unfailing sources of a happiness that shall be without measure and without end.

May the proofs of thy existence and thy attributes, which shine forth in the works of thy hand, bring conviction to every mind. Seeing that thou never leavest thyself without a witness, but every where givest rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying the wants of thy children with food, and filling their hearts with gladness, may all confess thy paternal love, and seek to know that they may do thy will.

And grant, O Gracious Father, that the knowledge of thee, the only true God, may lead to the knowledge of him whom thou hast sent; and that the truths, which thy book of nature teaches, may prepare the way for the devout reception of the teachings of thy revealed word. May those who hallow thy name become members of thy kingdom.

May the glad tidings of peace and love, which Jesus came to proclaim, have a free course throughout the world, exert over all minds a purifying influence, and hasten the arrival of that time which they teach us to hope for, when the knowledge and love of

thee shall cover the earth, as the waters cover the deep places of the sea, and the children of men, according to their knowledge and their power, shall do thy will, even as it is done in heaven.

Grant, O Father, that we may each one of us apart, and all of us united, lend our aid in preparing for this blessed consummation. To this end, bestow upon us, we beseech thee, such a measure of temporal good as may seem necessary to uphold us in the diligent and persevering discharge of our spiritual duties. Give us our daily bread. Provide for us needful raiment, with other earthly comforts, in such proportion as shall seem to thee desirable. We would not be anxious for any of these things, for we know that man liveth not by bread alone; but we rejoice that we are permitted to cast all our cares upon thee, and that thou hast encouraged us to believe that, if our work of duty be performed, thou wilt not leave the wants, even of our frail and perishing bodies, unprovided for.

Merciful God, in the performance of our work of love, our sins are constantly obstructing us. Evil desires allure us. Sinful

habits enchain us. We cannot labour as we would to extend thy kingdom in the world, because it is not firmly established in our own breasts. We have not ourselves ceased to do evil, and we cannot therefore effectually teach others to do well. Grant us repentance unto newness of life. Shew us the deep guilt and folly of sin. Mercifully forgive our trespasses, and render our repentance complete.

And, seeing that we have such frequent and mournful experience of our own frailty, may we have compassion on the frailty of those whom thou hast made of one blood with us, and exposed to like trials. May we forgive as we hope and pray to be forgiven. In meekness may we instruct our erring brethren, considering ourselves, lest we also be tempted.

Lord God, lead neither us nor those whom we love into trials too severe for us to bear. Expose us not to temptations too strong for us to resist; but have pity upon the weakness of our nature, and temper the severity of thy discipline according to thy knowledge of our power to endure it.

In faith, O God, we thus pray unto thee;

for we know that thou art merciful, and feel assured that thou wilt deal gently with us, if we deal faithfully, according to the ability that thou hast given us, with thee. Thou wilt not impose thy heavy burdens upon those who are too weak to bear them. Thou wilt not call upon any creature to render unto thee a greater or a better service than thou givest him power to perform.

Deal with us, therefore, as thou pleasest. Try our moral strength with such trials as to thine infinite wisdom and mercy shall seem good. But be present with us in every hour of peril, to strengthen us while we contend with the powers of evil, and finally to deliver us from them. We offer up our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, and, through him, ascribe unto thee the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

Saturday Evening*.

Most Merciful Father, now that the labours and pleasures, the trials and temptations, of another day and another week are over we rejoice that we are once more permitted, as

* This prayer, with such slight alterations as will readily suggest themselves, may be suitably used on the last evening of the year.

a family, to draw near unto thee, to whom we owe an account of all that we have done, and said, and thought,—who alone canst judge us with an unerring judgment,—and in whose sight, therefore, it should be our most anxious wish to stand approved.

Heart-searching God, grant us thine assistance while we look back upon the days that are past; and, instructed by the experience, both of good and evil, which they have brought with them, endeavour to cherish holy desires, and to form virtuous resolutions for the days that yet remain.

Hitherto, O God, thou hast been very merciful to us. Our lives have been preserved through many dangers: our bodies have been defended, or delivered, from many violent accidents and painful diseases: the light of reason has not been darkened in our minds: those whom we love still live to sympathize in our joys and sorrows: and the ties of affection that bind us to each other, as members of one household, remain still unsevered by death or by disunion. All these mercies testify that thou carest for us.

Yea, Lord, thy care for us is great, far greater than our own care for ourselves. We have often forgotten our Father; but thou

hast never been unmindful of thy children. In thought, word, and deed, we have sinned against thee; but thy love has followed us, even when farthest from thee, with solemn warnings, kind admonitions, or merciful chastisements. Thou sayest to us, "Why will ye die?"

Blessed be thy name that thou dost not leave us to ourselves, to follow unrestrained the devices and desires of our own hearts, but that when we fall, thou permittest and enablest us to rise again. We thank thee for the sharp compunctions of conscience, for the wholesome visitations of calamity, for the purifying lessons of thy word, for the many things which, in past hours of sin and danger, thou hast caused to work together for our good.

Grant that we may not have experienced in vain these proofs of thy tender compassion to thy frail children. By thy enlightening and assisting grace may we be inclined and enabled to turn from every evil way with stedfast resolution, and to shun the miserable fate of those who cease from sin for a season, only to relapse into it again, and whose last state is worse than their first.

Great God, speedily begin, we beseech thee, if thou hast not already begun, the good work of repentance in our hearts; and carry it forward, if thou hast begun it, to its full completion. We know that each week and day of life, as it passes, leaves the short remainder less: forbid it, Heavenly Father, that we should allow our work to increase as our time shortens,—that we should burden the days that are left with duties additional to their own, and should be employed in repairing the consequences of past misdeeds, when we ought to be advancing onwards from strength to strength, and from one degree of perfection to another.

May each succeeding week and day be an improvement upon those that have gone before, and may every step that takes us nearer to the grave take us nearer to the final home and heritage of the righteous. Watch over us, and those whom we love, during the slumbers of the coming night; and, should it please thee to preserve us to the day of rest and devotion, grant that we may enter upon it with earnest desires to employ and improve diligently every Christian privilege, and to cherish and strengthen in our breasts that

faith which worketh by love. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we offer up our prayers, and, through him, ascribe unto thee, the Only God, never-ending praises. Amen.

First General Prayer.

Whither, O Thou infinitely great and glorious Jehovah, whither shall we go from thy spirit, or whither shall we flee from thy presence? Even the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee. Since we can neither shun thine all-seeing eye, nor subsist without thy supporting hand, nor be happy without thy favour, may we be careful to set thee, the Lord, always before us, and to bear in mind, that wherever we are, or whatever we do, thou, O Lord, seest us. May we live as seeing thee, who art invisible. May we ever walk in thy fear and love: and may the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts, be always acceptable in thy sight, O Lord of Hosts, our Strength and our Redeemer.

How precious are thy thoughts of kind-

ness and acts of mercy unto us, O God! How great is the sum of them! They are more in number than the sand. But above all, would we praise thee for thy love to mankind, in Jesus Christ our Lord, which hath given unto us all things pertaining to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue. Give us, O Holy and most Merciful God, a just sense of our unworthiness, and of the deep guilt of sin. What we know not, teach thou us. And whereinsoever we have done iniquity, may we do so no more. Search us, O God, and know our hearts; try us, and know our thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in us, and lead us in the way everlasting.

Give us grace to live continually as in thy sight. May we watch and pray, lest we fall into the snares of temptation. May we examine ourselves, and cast out our bosom sins, whatever they be. Help us to keep our hearts with diligence, since out of them are the issues of life. May we set a watch at the door of our lips, and take heed that we offend not with our tongue. Enable us to rule our own spirits, and to bring our bodies

under subjection to the laws of thy Gospel. Prepare us, O Lord, for the events that lie before us. Teach us to see and own thy hand, in every circumstance of joy and comfort; or, if thou shouldst suffer any trouble or affliction to befal us, help us to acquiesce in thy will, and to pray that it may be good for us to have been afflicted. And may we endeavour, by a wise improvement of thy chastisement, to become partakers of thy holiness. Mercifully comfort such as are cast down, and be a present help to those that are in trouble. Let thy blessing be upon every member of this family. Assist us all in the faithful discharge of our respective duties, and make us blessings to each other. Guide us by thy counsel through life, and afterwards receive us to glory. We implore these great blessings of thee, the One God and Father of all, for thy mercy's sake, in Christ Jesus, Our Lord. Amen.

Second General Prayer.

O Almighty and most Merciful God, with whom is the fountain of life, and from whom cometh every good and every perfect gift, we

thy servants desire to bless thy name for all thy mercies. We present unto thee our united thanks for the gift of life, for the excellent frame of our bodies, and for the noble powers of our minds. We bless thee for our continual preservation, and for all the bounties of thy Providence. We thank thee for our daily bread, for the raiment with which we are clothed, for healthful and fruitful seasons, and for all the supports and comforts of life. We ascribe to thy wise and good Providence the success which hath attended our lawful undertakings, the advantages and pleasures of society and friendship, and the blessings of Civil Government. We thank thee for our moral and religious privileges, for the benefit of wise instructions and good examples, and for all our opportunities of improving in knowledge, virtue, and piety. Above all, we thank thee, that thou hast been graciously pleased to send thy Son Jesus Christ into the world, to instruct us in the knowledge of thy will, to guide our feet into the way of peace, and to inspire us with the joyful hope of everlasting life. O God of mercy, who can declare thy mighty acts? Who can shew forth all thy praise? If we

would speak of thy mercies, they are infinitely more than we can number. We will give thanks unto thee as long as we live; every day will we bless thee, and we will praise thy name for ever.

But whilst we acknowledge thy mercies with unfeigned thankfulness, it becometh us to confess, with humble and penitent hearts, that we have sinned against thee. We have done those things which we ought not to have done, and we have left undone those things which we ought to have done. We sincerely lament our past ingratitude and disobedience. And we desire henceforth to forsake every evil way, and to return unto thee with our whole hearts; humbly trusting in thy mercy, declared unto us by Jesus Christ our Lord, for the pardon of all our offences. And now, O God, we would cheerfully commit ourselves, and all that we value, to the care of thy kind providence. We trust in thy wisdom and goodness, that thou wilt feed us with food convenient for us, and we desire, in whatsoever state we are, to be therewith content. In prosperity may we be humble and thankful; and may we manifest our sense of thy goodness, by being always ready

to shew kindness to our brethren. If affliction and trouble come upon us, may we neither despise thy chastening, nor faint when we are rebuked of thee. In the day of adversity, may we cast all our care upon thee, and possess our souls in patience. And when thou shalt call us out of life, may we leave the world in peace; and, after death, grant, Merciful Father, that we may be numbered with thy saints, in glory everlasting, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Third General Prayer.

Great and Glorious God, the Creator and Preserver of the Universe, under whose direction the Sun continues to shine by day, and the Moon to rule by night; by whose never-ceasing influence the beauty, order, and usefulness of all thy works are maintained: we, thine unworthy servants, would, at this time, present our thanksgivings unto thee, our bountiful Benefactor, for the numberless benefits we daily and hourly receive at thy hands.

We bless thee for the care of thy Providence, which we continually experience; that

we have been favoured with all things necessary for life and godliness; and that we meet together at this time in the midst of so many blessings. Let such a sense of thy goodness towards us be ever present to our minds, that we may not dare to provoke Thee by our disobedience or ingratitude. Help us to improve the blessings of thy Providence, and to employ them to thy glory. And, under every afflictive dispensation, may we cheerfully bear thy will, persuaded that Thou knowest what is best for us. Keep us, O God, from every real evil. May we be always humble, and watchful against temptation. Make us aware of the dangers which surround us; and whenever we are tempted to any sinful compliance, may we say within ourselves, "How can we do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"

May we think no difficulties too great to surmount, no pleasures too dear to give up, in order that we may obtain thy favour unto life eternal. And may we ever cheerfully and steadily practise that which we know to be good and acceptable in thy sight. May our temper and conduct towards our fellow-creatures be governed by justice and equity, by tenderness and compassion. May we

never say or do that to others which we would not wish to be said or done to ourselves. O Father of Mercies, help us, amidst the cares and pleasures of this transitory life, to remember our duties, our hopes, and our privileges as Christians; that we are designed by Thee for a nobler existence, even for life eternal. May we, therefore, use this world as not abusing it. May we be temperate in all things. May it be our chief concern to lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven, and to cherish those dispositions and affections which will constitute our final and eternal bliss.

O God of Grace, assist us to correct every irregularity of passion, and to bring our bodies under subjection to thy most holy will, and to the law of Gospel purity. Bless all who are dear to us. May they cherish in their hearts the supreme love of God, and count thee their best and most faithful friend. Be merciful to all who are in affliction, of whatever kind. By the sorrow of the countenance may the heart be made better; and may the light afflictions of time, through thy grace, work out for them the glories and blessedness of eternity. Grant us thy protection and blessing now and evermore.—

May thy watchful eye guard us from all danger, and thy good Providence supply our wants, which we supplicate for thy mercy's sake, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Fourth General Prayer.

O most merciful and gracious God, who hast brought us to the present moment in safety and peace, we bless thee for thy manifold mercies. We acknowledge our entire dependence on thee for life and breath, and all things. In thee, O God, we live, and move, and have our being. By thee we have been sustained from our mother's womb. Our feeble infancy Thou didst graciously guard from a thousand dangers. Thou art the guide of our youth, the strength of our maturity, and the stay of our declining years. In every period of our lives, and through every changing scene, whether of health or sickness, of joy or sorrow, of prosperous or adverse circumstances, we have experienced thy loving kindness and tender mercies. Thou hast often borne with us when we have deserved chastisement at thy hands, and thou hast continued to bless us, although we have

been unmindful of thy goodness, and unthankful for thy mercies. We acknowledge, O God, our unworthiness, and beseech thee to pardon the manifold instances of our ingratitude, our numberless omissions of duty, and our frequent violations of thy law and commandments. Wert thou strict to mark our iniquities, no flesh could be justified in thy sight. Our hope, O Gracious Father, is not in works of righteousness which we have done—for do what we can, we are but unprofitable servants — but in thine infinite mercy and compassion.

And, blessed be thy name, thou hast given us assurance of thy mercy by thy beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from the bondage of iniquity, and raise us to the hope of eternal life. We are thankful for all that he hath done, and taught, and suffered for us; and we pray that it may not be in vain for us that Jesus hath lived, and died, and risen again from the dead; but, professing ourselves his disciples, may we imbibe his spirit, and follow faithfully in his footsteps. May the love of Christ powerfully constrain us to love him, and to live henceforth not unto

ourselves, in the indulgence of sinful appetites and passions, but unto him who lived and died for us. As he was holy, so may we be holy, in all manner of conversation and godliness. As he bore his cross, so may we take up our cross, and follow him through evil report and good report, through life and in death: that, after death, he may acknowledge us as his faithful disciples, and receive us into his eternal kingdom and glory.

We pray for the happiness, temporal and eternal, of all mankind. Especially, we beseech thee to bless and preserve all who are dear to us by any tie of kindred or affection. Take them and us under thy gracious protection. Supply us with all things needful to the soul and to the body. Assist and dispose us faithfully to perform the various duties of our respective stations; and grant that we may so pass through things temporal, that finally we lose not the things that are eternal. Our Father, &c.

Fifth General Prayer.

A PRAYER OF SIR WILLIAM JONES.

Eternal and Incomprehensible Mind, who by thy boundless power, before time began, createdst innumerable worlds for thy glory, and innumerable orders of being for their happiness; which thy infinite goodness prompted thee to desire, and thy infinite wisdom enabled thee to know! We, thy creatures, vanish into nothing before thy Supreme Majesty; we hourly feel our weakness; we daily bewail our vices; we continually acknowledge our folly. Thee only we adore with lawful veneration; thee we thank with the most fervent zeal; thee we praise with astonishment and rapture; to thy power we humbly submit; of thy goodness we devoutly implore protection; on thy wisdom we firmly and cheerfully rely.

We do but open our eyes, and instantly we perceive thy divine existence; we do but exert our reason, and in a moment we discover thy divine attributes: but our eyes could not behold thy splendour, nor could our minds comprehend thy divine essence;

we see thee only through thy stupendous and all-perfect works; we know thee only by that ray of sacred light which it hath pleased thee to reveal. Nevertheless, if creatures too ignorant to conceive, and too depraved to pursue the means of their own happiness, may without presumption express their wants to their Creator, let us humbly supplicate thee to remove from us that evil which thou hast permitted for a time to exist, that the ultimate good of all may be complete; and to secure us from that vice which thou sufferest to spread snares around us, that the triumph of virtue may be more conspicuous.

Irradiate our minds with all useful truth; instil into our hearts a spirit of general benevolence; give understanding to the foolish, meekness to the proud, temperance to the dissolute, fortitude to the feeble-hearted, hope to the desponding, faith to the unbelieving, diligence to the slothful, patience to those who are in pain, and thy celestial aid to those who are in danger. Comfort the afflicted; relieve the distressed; supply the hungry with salutary food, and the thirsty with a plentiful stream. Impute not our

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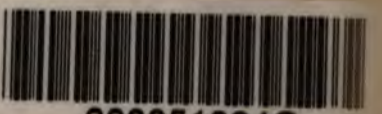

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doubts to indifference, nor our slowness of belief to hardness of heart; but be indulgent to our imperfect nature, and supply our imperfections by thy heavenly favour. Suffer not, we anxiously pray, suffer not oppression to prevail over innocence, nor the might of the avenger over the weakness of the just.

Whenever we address Thee in our retirement from the vanities of the world, if our prayers are foolish, pity us; if presumptuous, pardon us; if acceptable to thee, grant them, all-powerful God, grant them: and, as with our living voice, and with our dying lips, we will express our submission to thy decrees, adore thy providence, and bless thy dispensations; so in all future states, to which we reverently hope thy goodness will raise us, grant that we may continue praising, admiring, venerating, worshipping thee more and more, through worlds without number, and ages without end!

OCCASIONAL PRAYERS.

For the First Day of the Year or Week.

O merciful and gracious God, who hast of thine abundant goodness brought us in safety and peace to the beginning of another *year*, with joyful and thankful hearts we would acknowledge thy various goodness. Through every past period of our lives thou hast been ever with us, to support, preserve, and bless us. Thou hast never left us, nor forsaken us, but hast done us good continually. Often when we have deserved chastisement at thine hands, thou hast graciously spared us. Accept, O God, our fervent gratitude for all thy mercies, and be pleased to take us, and all whom we love, under the care and guidance of thy kind Providence through this and every remaining *year* and day of our lives. Be ever with us, in our going out and our coming in, by night and by day, at all times, and in every place. Suffer no evil to befall us. Guide us in all our ways. Succour us in all time of temptation and of

trouble. Strengthen us by thy grace, that we may stand complete in all the will of God. Enable us to see thy hand in every dispensation—in prosperity and health, to bless thee, and to rejoice in thy goodness—in adversity and sickness, to bow with meek submission to thy sovereign will, and say, It is the Lord—let him do what seemeth good in his sight—not our will, O God, but thine be done.

Have mercy upon such of thy servants as are advanced in years; forsake them not in the house of their pilgrimage; sustain, and cheer, and support them even unto the end; and, finally, bestow upon them a crown of immortal glory. Let the young be the objects of thy tender care—prepare their hearts to receive the good seed of the Word, and may they bring forth fruit abundantly to the glory of thy holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord; and finally, O God, grant, we beseech thee, that we may all so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things that are eternal. We entreat it for thy mercy's sake, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Adapted to the Season of Spring.

O God, the Creator and Preserver of the Universe, whose Providence is over all the works of thy hands; who orderest all things in heaven and earth with unerring wisdom; we bless thee for the change of seasons, and acknowledge thy never-failing goodness in the return of the Spring. Thou sendest forth thy Spirit. Thou renewest the face of the earth. Bless, we beseech thee, the springing of the year; and enrich the earth with the fertilizing rain and dew of heaven. May the grass grow for cattle, and herbs of every kind for the service of man. May our pastures be clothed with flocks, our valleys covered with corn, and the year crowned with thy goodness. Give us grateful hearts for all thy mercies; and may we so improve the various blessings of thy Providence in this world, that we may obtain thy favour and everlasting felicity in that world which is to come. We entreat it for thy mercy's sake, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Adapted to the Season of Harvest.

Almighty God, from whom cometh down every good and every perfect gift, whose alone it is to give fruitful seasons, and to fill the hearts of thy creatures with food and gladness; we lift up our souls unto thee, beseeching thee to preserve unto us the appointed weeks of Harvest, and to give us seasonable weather for the ripening and the gathering in of the fruits of the earth, that in due time we may enjoy them. O God of mercy, suffer not the hopes of the husbandman to fail. May the poor be satisfied with bread, that there be no complaining in our streets; and may every heart be filled with joy and gratitude to thee, the Giver of all good, the Fountain of existence and of happiness. Continue, O gracious Father, to bless us with the bounties of thy Providence; and may we evermore live to thy glory, in a wise and temperate enjoyment of all thy mercies: and to thy name be everlasting praise ascribed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Good Friday.

O holy and most merciful God, who didst not spare thine own Son, but didst deliver him up for us all, and hast graciously promised, that with him, and through him, thou wilt freely give us all things; we, thine unworthy servants, bow before thee with unfeigned humility. We acknowledge and deplore our manifold offences. Wert thou strict to mark our iniquities, no flesh could be justified in thy sight. Our hope, O God, is not in works of righteousness which we have done, (for after we have done all, we are but unprofitable servants), but in thine infinite mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whom thou hast appointed to be the author of eternal salvation to all who repent and obey him. We thank thee for all that he hath done, and taught, and suffered for us; and we pray, O God, that we may be enabled to take up our cross, and to follow him through life and in death; that after death he may acknowledge us as his faithful disciples, and confer upon us a crown of immortal glory. This blessing we entreat

for thy mercy's sake, in Jesus Christ our Lord, whom, having not seen, we love; in whom, though now we see him not, yet believing, we rejoice with joy unspeakable; and through whom we would ascribe to thy Divine Majesty the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

For Easter Sunday.

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Way and the Truth, the Resurrection and the Life, in whom whosoever believeth shall not die eternally; we, thy children and his disciples, desire to bless thee for all thy mercies; and more especially for that life and immortality which are brought to the clearest light by the Gospel of thy Son Jesus Christ. Adored be thy name, that we wander not in the darkness of heathen ignorance and superstition, but have been translated into the kingdom of thy dear Son, and into the glorious light of his Gospel. We pray that we may ever act consistently with these great privileges; that, having named the name of Christ, and

professing ourselves his disciples, we may henceforth depart from iniquity, and do good; and that being dead unto sin, we may rise again to a life of righteousness; and so pass the remainder of our time here, that hereafter we may be permitted to enjoy an eternal existence in thy glorious presence, where there is fulness of joy, and at thy right hand, where there are pleasures for evermore. Amen.

For Whitsunday.

O God, from whom all good things do proceed, who art the fountain of our hopes, and the author of all spiritual consolation and grace, we bless thee, that after the resurrection and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ, thou didst endue his Apostles with the gifts of thy Holy Spirit, that they might publish and confirm to all nations, and in all languages, the glorious Gospel of grace and truth. And we beseech thee to grant unto us thy servants, that being made wise with thy wisdom, we may think those things that are good, and, by thy merciful guidance and aid, may perform the same, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

For Christmas Day.

Almighty and Everlasting God, Father of all Mercies, God of all love and consolation, God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, by whom thou art reconciling the world unto thyself, not imputing unto men their trespasses; we offer unto thee our unfeigned thanksgivings, that having at sundry times and in divers manners spoken unto the fathers by thy servants the Prophets, thou hast in these latter days spoken unto us by thy Son Jesus Christ. We acknowledge him to be the appointed Savour of the world, and we bless thee that thou hast by him given us a clear revelation of thy will, graciously declaring through him that thou wilt pardon the truly penitent, and confer eternal life and glory upon all those who patiently continue in the way of well-doing.

We rejoice that the Dayspring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. We are thankful for the glad tidings of great joy, which are unto all people; and

we desire to unite with all thy rational offspring in praising thee, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, and good-will towards men." And as Jesus was born to this end, and for this cause came into the world, that he might bear witness to the truth, we humbly beseech thee to incline our hearts to receive his divine doctrines and obey all his commandments. By thus approving ourselves his faithful disciples here on earth, may we be prepared to meet him when he shall come the second time in glory to judge the world in righteousness; and may we have a joyful and abundant entrance into thine everlasting kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For the Last Day in the Year or Week.

Accept, O God, our unfeigned thanksgiving for the many mercies of the *(year)*, which this day closes. When we call to mind our manifold omissions of duty, and transgressions of thy Holy Law and Commandments, our wonder is, that thy great mercy hath hitherto spared us. Thy mer-

cies, O God, far transcend our deserts. We acknowledge our unworthiness, and beseech thee to forgive our sins, and to accept of our sincere and humble penitence, through Jesus Christ our Lord. And we desire to commend ourselves, and all that are dear to us, to the care of thy kind and gracious Providence, through the *years* and days that are yet to come. Defend us, O God, from all evil. Guide us in all our ways. Bestow upon us every needful blessing; above all, we beseech thee to bless us with thy favour, which is better than life.

We thank thee, O God, for the enjoyments peculiar to the various seasons of human life; for the innocent pleasures of youth, and for the calm and tranquil joys of age: and we pray that in whatever season of life we be, we may be found in the way of righteousness. May the *young* remember their Creator in the days of their youth. To the *aged*, may the hoary head be a crown of glory. May we *all* be daily more and more meet to become partakers of the inheritance of the Saints in light. Ever may we remember the shortness and uncertainty of human life, and so number our days, that

we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. In youth may thy servants prepare for age; in time may we provide for eternity. May we daily add to our store of knowledge, and virtue, and piety; that if thou shalt please to prolong our life, we may adorn our age with all that is venerable and praiseworthy. And, finally, having finished our course and been faithful unto death, may we obtain a crown of life and glory everlasting, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For the Afflicted.

O Merciful Father, who art the God of the spirits of all flesh, the great hearer of prayer, hear, we beseech thee, our humble and earnest supplications in behalf of the afflicted. Let it please Thee to lighten their affliction—to visit them with thy all-consoling presence—to dwell in their hearts by love—to draw them nearer unto thyself, and by all the trials of this mortal life, to fit them for higher and more enduring felicity in the world to come.

Enable thy servants, for whom we address our prayers to the throne of thy mercy, to rest all their care upon Thee, to possess their

souls in patience, to be meekly and calmly resigned to thy will, to look to the glorious example and follow in the divine footsteps of the Redeemer of men, whose meat and whose drink it was, to do and to bear thy whole will — through whose mediation we humbly approach the throne of thy Grace, for whose intercession in our behalf we are truly thankful, and through whom we would ascribe to thy Divine Majesty, the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Under Affliction.

Merciful God, we bow before thee with deep humiliation of spirit. We acknowledge our dependence upon thee for life and breath, and all things; for every power of our bodies, and every faculty of our minds; for every social and family blessing; for every thing that can render this life desirable, or enable us to cherish the hope of a better. O God, how little have we merited these great blessings! How ill have we requited all thy goodness! Merciful God, pardon, we beseech thee, the manifold instances of our ingratitude to Thee, and our culpable indifference to our

everlasting interests; and enable us to discern in the visitations of thy Providence, thy kind and gracious design to draw us nearer to thyself, to wean us from this unsatisfying world, and to fix our affections upon that better world which is revealed in thy Holy Word by the Lord Jesus Christ, the messenger of thy heavenly grace. Particularly, we beseech thee, to be merciful to thy servants of this family, whom thou hast seen fit to visit with affliction.

Enable us to direct our thoughts to Thee, and to tranquillize and sustain our spirits by the contemplation of thine infinite goodness, and by the assurance of thy mercy unto eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Let it please thee, O God, to lighten the affliction of thy servants, and grant that this visitation of thy Providence may have its due effect upon all our hearts. May it be good for us that we have been afflicted. May we be less and less attached to the vain and perishing pursuits of this transitory world, and continually more disposed to fix our thoughts and hearts upon those blessings eternal in the heavens, which are reserved for them that love and fear Thee.

And now unto thee, O God, who art able and willing to do for us abundantly more than we can ask, or think, or are worthy to receive, the only wise God, our Saviour, be ascribed, through Jesus Christ our Lord, the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

On the death of a Member of the Family.

O Merciful God, in whose hands are the issues of life and of death, without whom not even a sparrow falleth to the ground, whose Providence is over all the works of thy hands, and whose tender mercies have followed us all the days of our lives; we desire to bow before thee with deep humiliation of spirit, and even in the midst of affliction to express our devout gratitude for thy manifold mercies, and our perfect confidence in thy wisdom and goodness. Never, O Gracious Father, even in the deepest affliction, never would we forget thy loving kindness towards us; for thou hast done us good continually. Thou dost not wantonly afflict or grieve the children of men, and with our sufferings and

our grief thou hast ever mingled consolation and joy.

Blessed for ever be thy name, for the consoling assurance, that suffering and affliction, however severe, are not always an evidence of thy displeasure. Thy most faithful servants in all ages have suffered. Even thy blessed Son through the gates of suffering and of death entered into the glories of his heavenly kingdom. We thank thee, O God, for the powerful consolations of his blessed Gospel; for the assurance we possess, that the grave will not be our everlasting abode, but that, as thou hast raised up the Lord Jesus, so also thou wilt raise up his faithful followers, to behold his glory and to dwell with him for ever.

We earnestly desire, O God, to follow in the footsteps of our Divine Redeemer, and especially to imitate his illustrious example of patient and pious resignation to thy divine will. Enable, we beseech thee, thine afflicted servants of this family to say, after his divine example — "The cup which my heavenly Father hath given me, shall I not drink it? Not my will, O God, but thine be done." "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken

away—blessed be the name of the Lord!" May every instance of mortality have its due effect upon our hearts and lives. May we remember that we too are mortal; and may we so number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Grant, O God, that whenever it shall please Thee to send for us the awful summons, we may be prepared to stand before thy judgment-seat; and that hereafter we may be united in joy and felicity with thy servants that are departed hence in the faith of the Lord Jesus; for whom we bless Thee, and through whom we ascribe to thy Divine Majesty, everlasting praises. Amen.

Prayer on the Death of any Person.

Eternal God, without whose direction and providence nothing happeneth to us in life or in death; out of the depths of affliction and sorrow, unto Thee would we lift up our souls; unto Thee would we address our fervent prayers; for our help and our hope are in Thee: our lives are in thy hands, and all our enjoyments are at thy disposal. Thou didst at first call us into being by thy mighty

power; and when Thou takest away our breath, we die and return to the dust. In the midst of life we are in death: to whom may we look for succour but unto Thee, O Lord, who changest not, and who hast been the refuge of the children of men in all generations?

The Lord liveth, let our hearts rejoice, and let the God of our salvation be for ever adored. Under all the troubles of this mortal life, thy mercy, which endureth for ever, is our confidence and joy. Behold thy servants, O Lord; do with us whatsoever seemeth good in thy sight: not our will, O God, but thine be done. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord. Blessed for ever be the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who, according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of his Son Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for us. Teach us, O most Gracious God, by the daily instances of mortality which occur, and particularly by the present mournful event, to know how short and uncertain

our abode on earth is, and so to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

May we spend the remainder of our days upon earth in the faithful discharge of our duty, and live in such a manner as we shall wish to have done when we come to die. Whatsoever our hand findeth to do may we do it with all our might, since we know that there is no work nor device in the grave whither we are all going. Give us grace so to follow the good example of those who have departed this life in thy faith and fear, that at length we may, with them, be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. May we glorify Thee on earth, and finish the work which thou hast given us to do; that when we shall leave this world we may depart in peace, and sleep in Jesus; and that, finally, in the great day of the Lord, being found acceptable in thy sight, we may be admitted into thine everlasting kingdom and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for the Sick.

O Lord, our Heavenly Father, we are exhorted by thy blessed Apostle, through prayer and supplication to make our requests known unto Thee. We humbly lay before Thee our trouble; for thou art our refuge, and our portion in the land of the living. Hear us, O God, in behalf of thy servant, whom thou hast visited with sickness. Cause us to hear thy loving kindness in the morning, for in Thee do we trust; and enter not into judgment with thy servants, for in thy sight shall no man living be justified. Bring our souls out of this distress, for thy mercy's sake, O Lord, and grant that we may manifest our gratitude to thee, not with our lips only, but in our lives, having our conversation in Heaven; whence we look for the Lord Jesus, who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working of that mighty power, whereby he is enabled even to subdue all things unto himself; and through him, to thy divine Majesty, be everlasting praise ascribed. Amen.

Second Prayer for a Sick Person.

Almighty and Everlasting God, Maker of all things, who dost correct those whom thou dost love, and chastise every one whom thou dost receive; we beseech thee, in behalf of thy servant labouring under bodily indisposition. Grant, O Lord, that *he* may take this thy visitation patiently. Give *him* comfort and sure confidence in Thee. Support *him* under all the trials of this present sickness, that *he* may be fitted for whatever Thou in thy wise and righteous Providence hast appointed for *him*. Sanctify, we beseech Thee, this thy fatherly visitation to *him*, that if it be thy good pleasure to restore to *him his* former health, *he* may lead the residue of *his* life here in thy fear, and to thy glory; and that whenever Thou shalt see fit to remove *him* hence, *he* may be prepared to dwell with Thee in life everlasting, according to thy gracious promise, by Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom be ascribed to thy Divine Majesty, everlasting praises. Amen.

Prayer for a Sick Child.

Almighty and most Merciful God, the great Giver and Preserver of life, in a faithful dependence on thy goodness, wisdom, and power, we lift up our hearts unto Thee, humbly praying, if it seem good in thy sight, that Thou wilt graciously spare the life of this child, and prolong it to years of understanding and usefulness. Under thy direction and blessing, may all those means be pursued which will prove effectual to recover *his* health, and to restore *him* to *his* family and friends. But if Thou in thine unerring wisdom shalt determine otherwise concerning *him*, enable all connected with *him* meekly to submit to thy heavenly will, seeing that Thou only knowest what is best for us, in this our earthly pilgrimage. O Lord, who knowest our frame, incline thy merciful ear to our prayer, and fulfil these our requests, which we present unto Thee in humility and faith, as the disciples of thy beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom to thy Divine Majesty be everlasting praise ascribed. Amen.

THANKSGIVING ON RECOVERY FROM SICKNESS.

O Lord, our Heavenly Father, who art the author of every good and every perfect gift, we bow before Thee with the deepest gratitude. Thou healest our diseases, Thou forgivest our iniquities, Thou redeemest our lives from destruction, Thou crownest us with loving kindness, and with tender mercies. Amongst the other instances of thy goodness, we would thank Thee for this in particular, that Thou didst smooth the pillow of thy servant in *his* sickness, and hast raised *him* up by thy healing power.

We bless Thee, that in chastening us, thou hast not forgotten to be gracious; that thou hast heard our sighing, and hast delivered us from the evil that we feared. May the sense of this, thy great goodness and long-suffering kindness, abide with thy servants, and produce in them the fruits of righteous living, to the honour of thy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord, for whose most gracious manifestation of thy holy will we unfeignedly bless Thee.

And we fervently pray, that we may so abide in him, and so walk in his most holy

footsteps, that hereafter we may have an abundant and joyful entrance into his everlasting kingdom, where there shall be no more sickness or sorrow, and into which sin and death shall never enter. There may we, with all thy saints, live to thy glory, and unite in thy praise. Amen.

Thanksgiving after Child-birth.

O Merciful and Gracious God, who art the giver and preserver of life and of all its joys, we thankfully acknowledge our entire dependence upon Thee, for life and breath and all things. In Thee we live and move and have our being. By Thee we are every moment sustained. In danger Thou art our defence. In trouble Thou art our exceeding great consolation and support. We cry unto Thee, and Thou hearest the prayer of thy servants. Blessed be thy name, O God, that Thou didst hear the prayer of thy handmaid in the time of her distress. Graciously perfect what thy mercy hath begun, and enable her successfully to discharge all her maternal duties. May she faithfully and diligently bear her part in bringing up

and to abide under thy blessing, for Thou art a God of all power and everlasting mercy.

Bless, I beseech Thee, my parents and relations, my friends and instructors; and bestow on them and me such things as Thou knowest to be best for us. While I live, may I behave like an obedient child of God, and after death may I be taken into heaven, to dwell with Thee and with thy Son Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.

Morning Prayer for a Servant or Apprentice.

O Lord God of my life, who makest the outgoings of the morning and the evening to rejoice, I desire to worship Thee with my body and my spirit, which are thine. Under the protection of thy good Providence, I laid me down and slept, and now rise up again in health and strength, for Thou hast sustained me. Blessed be thy holy name, that thou hast preserved me in the darkness of the night. Preserve me also, I beseech thee, in the course of this day. Keep me, if it be thy good pleasure, from sickness and

bodily accidents, but, above all, from every kind of sin. Let me not forget that I am always in thy presence, that thine eye is ever upon me, and that I am accountable to Thee, the Great Searcher of hearts, for all my thoughts, words, and actions. Suffer me not to walk with wicked men, or to go into the way of temptation. May I keep myself sober, chaste, and honest, diligent in my business, and faithful to my trust.

Let not my heart be inclined to any evil thing, neither let my lips speak falsely. May the law of truth be written in my heart, and may I keep all thy commandments; and let it please thee, O God, to prosper the work of my hands; to give me, if it be thy gracious will, success in this world, and in the world to come life everlasting, through thine infinite mercy, in Jesus Christ. Amen. Our Father, &c.

Evening Prayer for a Servant or Apprentice.

Almighty God, who hast made and dost govern all things, the day is thine—the night also is thine. To thy gracious protection I

commit myself, humbly beseeching Thee to grant me such refreshing rest and sleep as may best fit me for the duties of the day following. It is by thy good providence that the various orders and degrees of men are appointed, and thou markest out for each one of us the bounds of his habitation. In whatsoever state of life I am, therefore, may I be content therewith; thankful that Thou hast put it in my power, by honest labour, to earn my daily bread; and resolved, by the cheerful and diligent performance of the business of my station, to deserve the approbation of my earthly master; and above all to gain *thy favour*, which is better than life. Pardon, I beseech thee, the many transgressions of my past life, and grant me the assistance of thy grace, that henceforth I be not a servant of sin, or a slave to any evil passion: but make me so faithful and diligent, humble and obedient, both in the business of my calling and in Thy service, that I may at last be found in the number of those who shall enter into the joy of their Lord. Bless, I beseech thee, and prosper, every member of this family. Grant that we may all live together in peace and love, that we may all be

partakers of thy grace and loving kindness in this world, and in thy good time may enjoy eternal happiness with Thee in the world to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for a Young Person.

Most gracious God and Father, who hast taken care of me ever since I was born, and hast supplied me with all things needful both for the soul and body: continue, I beseech thee, thy providential care over me. Be about my path and my bed. Let thy presence defend me from all evil, and guide my footsteps into the paths of safety and peace.

Forgive, O God of mercy, whatever I have hitherto said, or done, or thought amiss: and help me, by thy grace, to serve Thee better for the time to come. May I root out of my heart every evil propensity, every unholy desire, every envious and uncharitable feeling. May I fear nothing so much as thy displeasure, and desire nothing in comparison with thy favour. May I keep my heart with all diligence, since out of it are the issues of life. May I ever do unto others

as I would that they should do unto me. May I forgive, as I myself hope to be forgiven. May I, always looking to the example of my blessed Saviour, endeavour to walk in his steps, and be conformed to his most sacred image. Especially, to my parents and instructors may my conduct be respectful, affectionate, and dutiful; that so I may, if possible, lessen the burden of their care, and diminish their anxiety on my behalf. Bless me, O God, and those who are joined with me, in our learning and various pursuits. Deliver us from sloth and idleness, from wilfulness and obstinacy. Save us from evil companions and bad advisers, and from all dangers both of soul and body: and help us daily to increase in knowledge and wisdom, and all virtue. These things, and whatsoever else Thou shalt see good for me, I entreat for thy mercy's sake, in Jesus Christ, my Lord. Our Father, &c.

Prayer for an Aged Person.

O Holy and most Merciful God, who hast been my God, and the God of my fathers throughout all generations, hitherto hast thou

helped me, daily and liberally supplying all my wants, feeding me with food convenient for me, and giving me all things richly to enjoy. My feeble infancy Thou didst protect from unnumbered dangers. Thou wast the guide of my youth, and the strength of my maturer years, and hast brought me even unto this day, through many mercies. What shall I render unto thee, O God, for all thy goodness, which thou hast caused to pass before me from day to day? Thy mercies are more than can be numbered, and little have I merited thy great goodness.

O God, be not strict to mark my many failings and transgressions: but let thy mercy pardon the errors of my past life; and grant me grace to devote the remainder of my days to thy service, and to the faithful discharge of all my duties.

Let it please Thee to prepare my mind for that awful change which awaits us all; and in that last conflict, be Thou the strength of my heart, and my everlasting portion. May I be enabled to look back without dismay, and forward with hope: as my strength decays, let not my faith fail: even in death I would trust in thy mercy, who, through thy beloved

Son, hast overcome death, and opened unto us the gates of everlasting life. O may thy servant have a joyful and abundant entrance into thine everlasting kingdom and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For the Head of a Family.

I desire, O Lord, faithfully to discharge the duties of a kind and tender parent. May I be deeply solicitous to promote the well-being of my children in time and in eternity. Assist me to imbue their tender minds with the principles of religion; and to fill their hearts with the love of Thee, the most excellent of all Beings, and with the fear of offending against thy most holy laws. Let it be my constant endeavour to guard them against all pride and vanity, sensuality and intemperance, wilfulness and obstinacy, anger and revenge, and the indulgence of every evil passion: and so to inspire them with humility, self-diffidence, and trust in Thee, that they shall be enabled by thy assistance, duly sought, to govern themselves, and to walk steadfastly in the way of thy commandments. May every amiable disposition

take root in their hearts; and may they experience how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.

Preserve them, O Lord, from the evils and temptations of the world, and grant that, obediently keeping thy holy will and commandments, and walking in the same all the days of their lives, they may be instruments of thy love, and promoters of thy glory, by doing good in their generation. And having served thee faithfully in this world, may they hereafter be made partakers of everlasting happiness in that world which is to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For the Head of a School.

O Lord, bless the children committed to my care, and assist me faithfully to discharge my duty towards them. Enable me to open their understandings, to enrich their minds with useful knowledge, and especially to lead their thoughts to Thee, the source of all knowledge, the Fountain of Light and Life, from whom cometh down every good and every perfect gift. Whilst I am training them for this world, let me not lose sight of

that better world which is to come; but endeavour to fix their affections upon a more enduring substance than this world's fame, or wealth, or power; even upon those blessings eternal in the heavens, which will be the sure reward of all those who love and fear thy name. And grant, O God, that we may so discharge our duties to one another, and to all men, that we may obtain thy favour unto life eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Of a Mother or Governess,

With her Children, before they begin their Daily Task.

O Lord of all grace and mercy, bless me, I beseech thee, and those children that are committed to my care. Direct and prosper me in that which ought to be my principal endeavour. Enable me to train them in the knowledge and fear of Thee. Dispose their minds towards every thing that is good, and grant that in due time I may see them faithfully following the example of our Lord and Master, and serving Thee, their God, with fervency of spirit. May they be dutiful to their parents, respectful to such as are in

authority, compassionate to the poor and afflicted, kind, affable, and full of love and good works, to all men. And daily may they improve in every grace and virtue of the Christian character. Let it please thee, O Lord, to endue them with such a capacity for learning, that they may derive pleasure, as as well instruction, from what they learn: and may they employ all their acquirements to aid the cause of virtue, and to adorn the doctrine of Thee, our God and Saviour, to whom be everlasting praise ascribed through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of the Husband or the Wife.

Give us, O God, a meek and gentle spirit, a spirit of mutual forbearance and kindness. Give us that charity that is not easily provoked and thinketh no evil, that we may love one another with a hearty and sincere affection. Let thy blessing rest upon us and ours; prosper our mutual labours, and dispose us faithfully to discharge our respective duties. Let all strife and contention, all hatred and anger, repinings and discontent, be far from us. And let true Christian love and peace

dwell in our hearts. Make us eminent examples of a holy and blameless conversation. May we live together in the Christian spirit of meekness, bearing with each other's infirmities, and ever labouring to promote each other's happiness. And grant, O God, that we may so faithfully discharge all the duties of this life, that we may be found worthy hereafter to be joint partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light, and may be crowned with immortal glory in the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, through whom to thy Divine Majesty be everlasting praise ascribed. Amen.

Prayer of the Sailor.

Almighty God, whose power is irresistible, who ridest in the whirlwind and directest the storm, all nature is subject to thy controul. Thou doest whatsoever thou pleasest in heaven and on earth. Thou hast caused me to see thy glorious works, and thy wonders in the mighty deep. For Thou commandest and raisest the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof. Again Thou makest the storm a calm, so that the

waves thereof are still, and thou bringest the good ship to its desired haven. O God, never let me forget thy gracious protection, and thy many mercies to thy servant on this element, so full of peril and uncertainty. May I be filled with awe at thy mighty power, and ever fear to offend so great a God. Let it please thee to forgive my manifold offences, and to grant me sincere repentance unto newness of life.

And enable me, O God, evermore to put my trust in thy merciful protection, and to hope for thy salvation, through Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.

Prayer of the Citizen in time of War.

Almighty God, who rulest in heaven above and in the earth beneath; who speakest, and it is done, who commandest, and it stands fast; without whom not even a sparrow falleth to the ground; I beseech thee to take my native land, and all that dwell therein, under thy gracious protection. Enable us firmly and with strong assurance of faith, to commit ourselves to thy keeping. May we use no unlawful or unchristian means to

defend ourselves even against injury and oppression. May no enemy from without, or more dangerous enemy from within, have power to quench in our breasts the feelings of humanity, and the love of peace. Give peace in our day, O Lord, we beseech thee, and grant that the time may quickly come, which thy holy Prophets have foretold, when men shall not learn war any more, but the sword shall be turned into a ploughshare, and the spear into a pruning-hook. Frustrate, O God, the designs of the oppressor; turn the hearts of the sons of violence to peace and love. May all thy children, bound in the bonds of a common brotherhood, forbear for thy sake, to invade each other's happiness, or to shed each other's blood. May they love their enemies, that they may make thee their friend. May they live in peace, and make peace, that they may be thy children indeed. Grant this, O Universal Father, for thine infinite mercy's sake, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer of the Prisoner for Crime.

O Lord, thou seest my desolate condition, and the sufferings of my inmost soul. Let it please thee to have compassion on thy suffering and sinful servant. I acknowledge, O God, my transgression, and my sin is ever before me. I have done that which I ought not to have done: I have transgressed thy holy laws, and now receive the just reward of my deeds. Restore me, O God of Mercy, if it be thy will, to the society whose laws I have transgressed; but, above all, bring me out of the dark prison-house of sin, and lead me to that deep contrition for my past offences, which will ensure the conversion of my heart and life, and render me a fit object for thy pardon and merciful acceptance, through Jesus Christ my Lord. Give me grace to forsake the error of my ways, and to turn unto Thee, the living God, with my whole heart. Wherein I have injured any of my fellow-creatures, dispose and enable me, to the utmost of my power, to repair the injury.

Wherein I have offended against the laws of my country and my God, may I do so no more. May I ever remember that the wages of sin is death, and that I can never hope for thy favour and life eternal whilst I continue in the practice of any known sin. O God, give me grace to amend my ways, and bring me at length to thy heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.

Universal Prayer.

O my God, I believe in Thee; do Thou strengthen my faith. All my hopes are in Thee; do Thou secure them. I desire to love Thee with my whole heart; teach me to love Thee daily more and more. I am sorry that I have offended Thee; do thou increase my sorrow.

I adore Thee as my first beginning: I aspire to Thee as my last end. I give Thee thanks as my constant Benefactor; I call upon Thee as my Sovereign Protector.

Vouchsafe, O my God, to conduct me by thy wisdom, to restrain me by thy justice,

to comfort me by thy mercy, and to defend me by thy power. To Thee I desire to consecrate all my thoughts and words, all my actions and sufferings, that henceforth I may think of thee, speak of thee, refer all that I do to thy greater glory, and willingly suffer whatsoever Thou shalt appoint.

Lord, I desire that in all things thy will may be done, because it is thy will, and in the manner that Thou willest. I beseech of Thee to enlighten my understanding, to influence my will, to purify my body, and to sanctify my soul. Give me strength, O my God, to renounce my sins, to overcome the temptations which thou sendest, and to acquire the virtues proper for my state. Fill my heart with tender affection for thy goodness, with sorrow for my faults, with love for my neighbours, and indifference towards the world.

Let me always remember to be duly respectful and submissive to my superiors, kind and affable to my inferiors, faithful to my friends, and charitable to my enemies. Assist me to overcome sensuality by self-denial, avarice by deeds of charity, anger by meekness, and lukewarmness by devotion. O my

God make me prudent in my undertakings, courageous in dangers, patient in afflictions, and humble in prosperity.

Grant that I may be ever attentive at my prayers, temperate at my meals, diligent in my employments, and constant in all my virtuous resolutions.

Let my conscience be ever clear-sighted and pure, my demeanour modest, my conversation edifying, and my conduct regular.

Assist me, that I may continually labour to counteract the frailty of my nature, to co-operate with thy grace, to keep thy commandments, and to work out my salvation.

Discover to me, O my God, the nothingness of this world, the greatness of Heaven, the shortness of Time, and the length of Eternity. Grant that I may prepare for death, that I may fear thy judgments, that I may shun thy displeasure, that I may seek thy favour, and in the end obtain the blessings of Heaven, through thine infinite mercy in Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us day by day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

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